

Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Green Doghouse

If you work well with wood and want to try a green roof, why not start by building one for your dog?

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...
Page 11



IndyMac Crisis

IndyMac Bank's assets were seized by federal regulators on Friday.

UNITED STATES...Page 17



Thumbs Up

"The Dark Knight" comes pretty close to meeting high expectations.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Bell begins practice run for swim around Saipan. **PAGE 2**
FHB warns Guam customers of phishing scam. **PAGE 3**

OGA petition needs 512 signatures

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A citizen petition to subject the Legislature to the Open Government Act needs about 500 more signatures to get on the ballot this November.

Rep. Tina Sablan said Friday only 1,900 of the 2,400 signatures submitted with the petition have been verified as valid. The rest were either duplicates or signatures by non-registered voters.

To be placed on the ballot, a popular initiative to amend the law must be signed by at least 20 percent of the registered voters. For this election, the threshold is about 2,400 signatures.

See **PETITIONERS** on Page 4



Tina Sablan

OPA offers building for the use of MPLT

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has offered one of its buildings for use by the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan made the offer following a report that MPLT is planning to buy land and construct a new office

See **SABLAN** on Page 4



Mike Sablan

An American life worth less today



AP

Euro coins and dollar bills are seen Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008.

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's not just the American dollar that's losing value. A government agency has decided that

an American life isn't worth what it used to be.

The "value of a statistical life" is \$6.9 million in today's dollars, the Environmental Protection Agency reckoned

See **AMERICAN** on Page 4

People need and deserve to know what their legislators are doing to tackle the many difficult issues of the day, and they have a right to be more involved in the political process.



PENULTIMATE FLIGHT

A passenger waits to board the Continental Micronesia aircraft at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday. Effective Wednesday, July 16, 2008, Continental will no longer provide direct flights from Manila to Saipan, blaming skyrocketing prices of oil and the low demand for the flights.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Around the CNMI

Bell begins practice run for swim around Saipan

Editor's Note: On June 9, 2008, James Bell celebrated his 70th birthday swimming the five-mile channel between Saipan and Tinian. It was a feat he last achieved in July 1981, when he marked his retirement from the U.S. Navy by swimming alone from Saipan to Tinian. His next goal is to cross the Torres Strait from Papua New Guinea to the Australian mainland. To practice for this arduous journey, Bell will be swimming along the coastline of Saipan, with the goal of eventually circling the entire island. Here, he will be sharing his experience with Saipan Tribune readers as he attempts the feat.

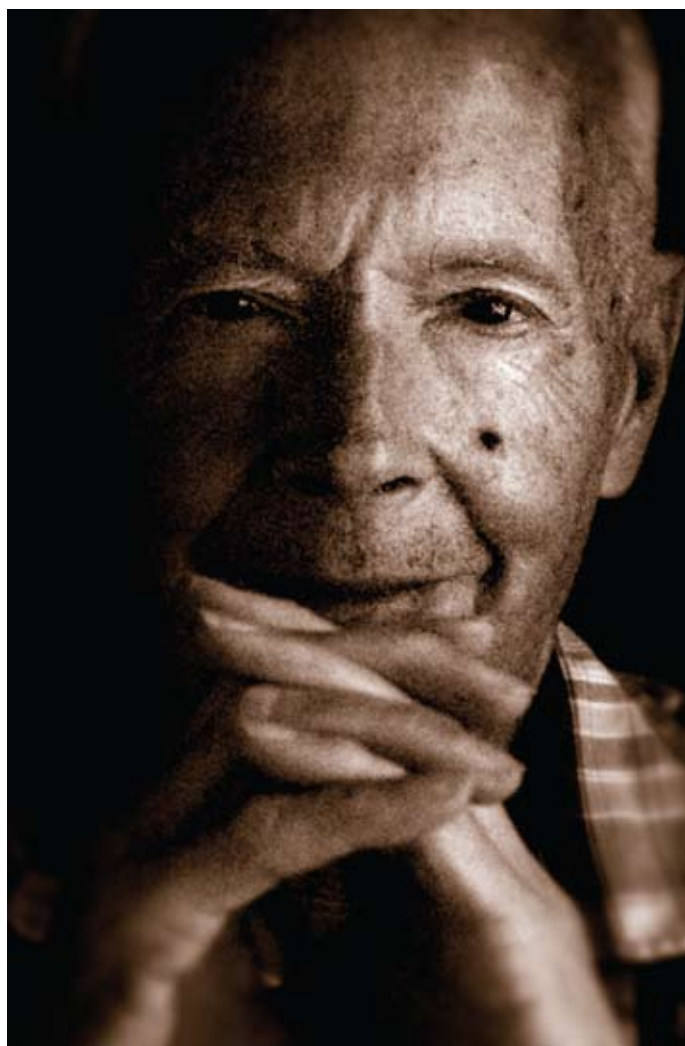
By JAMES BELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I returned to Saipan on June 20th with the intention of swimming the 54-mile circumference of Saipan in segments as I did the island of Guam in 1980. This is a beautiful time of year in the Mariana Islands. Though past their prime, the flame trees are still well covered with red blooms and other trees and vines are in bloom. The rainy season started not long after my arrival. We have not had a rainy day yet, just an increase in showers and cloudiness. I returned to the Marianas from Boulder, Colorado, where heavy rain is always accompanied by fireworks. Here, a tropical downpour can come and go without a rumble.

For my first segment, I chose a stretch of reef on the west side of the island and a date of July 4th. The west side or lee side of the island has a barrier reef for most of its length. A large lagoon is

enclosed between the beaches and reef, which in some areas lies two miles off shore. My starting point was Sugar Dock dating back to the years of sugar cane growing when the Japanese controlled the island. My ending point was the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel just south of the channel to the commercial port. This route encompassed some of the areas in which World War II amphibious assaults took advantage of an approach over a reef on the side of the island protected from the trade wind swell with gently sloping beaches. In the pre-assault bombardment, villages and everything standing on this stretch of the island were bombed and shelled to rubble to prevent the enemy from having any areas of concealment close to the beach from which they could fire on our landing troops. There is little damage still evident, Sugar Dock being one exception. I was interested to see if the reefs had recovered from the terrible pounding they took in the invasion.

I met a group of friends at the dock including Harry Blacklock, a radio station manager, SCUBA diver and underwater photographer. He took underwater pictures of my departure through the channel through the reef which I guess can be labeled "What the sharks see". Actually, I have yet to see my first shark since returning to the tropics. Once over the reef, I was in a different world. The coral appeared to have recovered well and for much of my five-mile swim along the reef, I felt like I was swimming over a submerged garden. The largest things I saw



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

James Bell will attempt to swim around the entire island of Saipan, in preparation for his goal to cross the Torres Strait from Papua New Guinea to the Australian mainland.

were a jet black sting ray and a barracuda. I do not recall ever seeing a black sting ray before. My time for the 5.4-mile swim was 5 hours 20 minutes, nothing to e-mail home about, but I can make the excuse that I wasted a lot of time threading my way through a maze of coral awash at low tide.

The second segment of my swim started at the Hafa Adai Hotel on July 9th and ended at

the very uninspiring waterfront by the power plant with a turn around Managaha, an island in the lagoon about two miles off shore, enroute. This was a cloudy day with showers, some increase in wind and wave height and with murky water in contrast to the great swimming day I had on July 4th. This swim was a bit hazardous since I was crossing the channel to the commercial port. There was traffic in

and out of port and a lot of boat traffic to and from Managaha. The night before my swim, I had a thought that I should check the time of the morning trip of the Tinian Express running from Saipan to Tinian as I definitely did not want to tangle with it in mid-channel, but I did not get around to it. This is a large, fast, water jet-powered passenger ferry which I rode to Tinian the evening before my swim from Tinian to Saipan.

About an hour into my swim, I was well into the channel when I saw two boats approaching from the east. The largest and closest was the Tinian Express aimed directly at me and flying. They obviously had not seen me and there was little likelihood that they would. I put on a burst of speed that would probably take me to the Olympics if I could sustain it and if the Olympic Committee could find a pool big enough to contain the Tinian Express. I had just a few seconds to react and when I looked up, the ferry was closing the last 50 feet between us. My burst of speed had taken me directly into her path. I was just past the centerline—you do not want to be hit by the point of the bow. The bow wave threw me toward Managaha Island and I backpedaled to keep from bouncing off the side of the boat racing by. I went into a ball and held my mask on to keep it from being ripped off by the pounding I knew I would take from the backwash as the stern flew by. All I got was a lot of warm bubbles. I watched as the express slid into a turn at the last buoy and headed south for Tinian.

A half hour later, a large open boat returning from Managaha knifed through the waves just ahead of me. The skipper did a u-turn to come back and tell me he had almost hit me. I told him I had just been run down by the Tinian Express and I wasn't impressed. He laughed and asked me to just get a ferry back from Managaha and not swim the channel again. Actually I swam around to the back side of Managaha and headed back for Saipan in a different direction. All I had to contend with was boats towing people dangling from parachutes. Boats towing parachute flyers do not run fast—a welcome change. On this trip I saw two more 3-4 foot diameter black sting rays and the remains of a landing craft that has lain rusting in the coralbeds northeast of Managaha Island since June 15, 1944. In spite of my mid-channel burst of speed, it took me 4 hours 40 minutes to cover the 4.7 mile route.

My next swim on Saturday, July 12, will be about four miles from the power house to Wing Beach, a transition from one of the worst stretches of shoreline on the island to one of the nicest beaches. After Wing Beach, there will be only limited coral development for miles with the waves beating against cliffs much of the way. The halfway point between Wing Beach and Bird Island, my next stopping point, is the Banzai Cliff where hundreds of Japanese families jumped 100 feet into the sea as the defending forces retreated to the north end of the island ahead of the Americans. I will keep you posted.

Special Theme Lunch!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	*SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Korean	Japanese	Chinese	Authentic Teppanyaki	Seafood	Family	Sunday Brunch & Magic Show

Monday to Saturday \$16.99 per person
Sunday Brunch \$25 per person
Childrens 5 to 11 years old half price

VIP/Local Discounts Apply
*Restriction Apply
Open 11am to 2pm

Live The Fiesta Way!

FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Continental posts outstanding June performance

Management to thank employees each with \$100 bonus check

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—Continental Micronesia said Tuesday it achieved an outstanding operational performance in June.

It said the airline exceeded the month's operational performance goals with 77.1 percent of all flights departing on time or early, 89.7 percent flights arriving within 14 minutes, a completion factor of 99.9 percent, and mis-

handled baggage ratio of 1.06 per 1,000 passengers on a passenger load factor of 73.4 percent.

The airline sets goals each month based on four operational criteria: departures exactly on time, arrivals within 14 minutes, baggage delivery performance, and completion factor.

When all four goals are met, the company extends a cash

bonus to each employee. Employees will be receiving their checks on Friday, July 18.

Continental Micronesia consistently outperforms carriers that report similar operational performance statistics each month to the Department of Transportation.

"June's operational success is a product of every co-worker in

all our departments working together on behalf of our customers," said Continental Micronesia chief executive officer and president Mark Erwin. Customers of Continental Micronesia continue to enjoy an unrivaled reliability of schedules.

"Our customers benefit as a direct result of our employees' hard work on delivering an excellent operations," said CMI managing director of Operations Jay Wedding. "In these

extremely challenging times in our industry, our on-time performance demonstrates that our employees are committed and focused on serving our customers with our very best everyday," said Wedding.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. A wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia employs 1,500 men and women and offers more than 236 depar-

tures each week between 23 cities throughout the Pacific Rim, the Micronesian Islands and Hawaii with a fleet of 12 Next-Generation Boeing 737 and 767 aircraft.

In addition, Continental Micronesia and its code share partner Cape Air operate 86 weekly commuter service flights between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. For more company information, visit continental.com. (*Continental*)

FHB warns Guam customers of phishing scam

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank is warning the public and its customers to be on the lookout for a fraudulent email which asks the recipient to provide personal financial in-

formation in order to receive a tax refund. This email was not issued by First Hawaiian Bank. The bank does not issue tax refunds, it said.

As a reminder, First Ha-

waiian Bank said it does not request account number information, bank routing numbers, or a customer's PIN number by phone or email.

The bank is reminding people who think that they have received a suspicious email to delete the email and to not click on any links embedded inside.

If they suspect that they have received a fraudulent phone call, they should contact their banker, the nearest branch or call First Hawaiian Bank's 24-hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-844-4444.

First Hawaiian Bank (\$12.75 billion assets) was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. It is a subsidiary of BancWest Corporation (www.bancwestcorp.com), a financial holding company. (*FHB*)

Parole, probation officers honored

The Commonwealth's probation and parole officers get to have their own week beginning tomorrow, with the signing of a proclamation declaring July 14-18 as CNMI Probation and Parole Officers Week.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez proclaimed July 14-18, 2009 as CNMI Probation and Parole Officers Week during a signing ceremony held Friday morning at the Governor's Office, just before the start of the State of the Judiciary Address at the Legislature.

Villagomez urged the community to "recognize and congratulate the officers serving in Commonwealth probation and parole institutes for their vital contribution to the general welfare of our people."

Probation and parole officers are charged with the duties and responsibilities of supervising adult and juvenile offenders in the CNMI.

The proclamation pays tribute to the local probation and parole officers, describing them as dedicated law enforcement officers essential to the criminal justice system. The document said probation and parole offi-

cers "uphold the law with dignity, while recognizing the right of the public to be safe from criminal activity."

The proclamation also noted that by supervising adult and juvenile offenders in the CNMI, probation and parole officers "protect all residents and offenders, while assisting offenders in building positive lifestyles to become effective and productive members of society."

Probation and parole officers are trained professionals who provide periodic services and referrals for offenders. They supervise and monitor felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases. They work in partnership with community agencies and groups to promote prevention, intervention and advocacy programs.

"Probation and parole officers strive to achieve maximum and acceptable standards of professionalism in their work by enrolling in continuing education and training programs. They supervise and monitor felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases, while also advocating community and restorative justice," the proclamation reads. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm
- Please adhere to the following schedules:
- Monday - Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.
- Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (*PR*)

New Call-A-Ride schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities issued a notice yesterday to inform all Call-a-Ride customers of the revised Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Friday 6am to 9pm
- Saturday 8am to 5pm
- Sunday OFF
- Bus fee \$3 one way, \$6 round trip
- Contact Wildrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell no. 483-9013/9012.

The management and operation of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Accessible Transportation Service program are currently provided by the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities under an annual contract agreement. (*PR*)



COVENANT SIGNING

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo and Rep. Rosemond B. Santos gather for a photo during the recent signing of the Army Community Covenant at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Special Sunday Lunch at

Festive Buffet

with Champagne, Beers and Wines

Only \$18.00 for adults
\$9.00 for kids ages 5 to 12 y.o.

VIP and Local Discounts Apply

Avail of our Swimming Pool facility, just ask your friendly servers

Weekend Get Away

Over night Stay with Special Sunday Lunch for 2

\$99.00

Plus free entrance to Club V

Saipan Grand Hotel

A TanHoldings Company

For inquiries or reservation please call
234-6601 ext. 301-302

Another exciting offer from the Grand

Bordallo mourns death of 2 Guam sons

Island Business Link sparks interest

Island Business Link, a web-based business tool designed to connect business owners in the U.S. insular areas with partners and investors abroad, has begun drawing the interest of businesses, which have signed up to avail of this free networking tool.

During their two weeks on the islands last month, the Department of the Interior's Island Fellows launched the Link by advertising it on various media (TV, radio, newspaper), training business people on the site, presenting to large and small groups and meeting individually about potential opportunities.

After only two weeks, the Office of Insular Affairs said these meetings resulted in 560 registered members and 145 different business opportunities on the site.

"Media has generated significant awareness on the site and in the last 24 hours, 18 new business opportunities have been posted for a grand total of 163," according to the OIA website.

This free, on-line tool is designed to help business owners network,



OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

The Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs' Island Fellows for 2008. They are, from left to right, Angie Williams, Zubin Menon, Debbie Wissel, Matthew Garcia, Katherine Maccougall, Zach Morello, Danielle Noto, Kelly Miksa, David Fedlam, and Joe McDermott. Wissel was the one assigned to the CNMI.

connect, and expand their businesses by posting business opportunities. The site is analogous to an on-line dating tool for businesses; connecting people with similar interests and business aspirations.

Similar to the Island Business Opportunities Conference, Island Business Link provides an easily accessible forum for starting and continuing

meaningful business relationships that will have a positive economic impact on the islands.

The Island Fellows will spend their remaining seven weeks in Washington D.C. continuing to develop Island Business Link, contacting partners for the site, and marketing the Island Business Opportunities conference, scheduled for Hawaii April 6-8, 2009. (DOI)

Sablan says MPLT can use OPA building

From Page 1

building. The plan, recently approved by the MPLT board, has sparked public controversy because of its tentative cost of approximately \$700,000 and its proposed location on private land.

"To prevent any unnecessary expenditure of trust money or public funds and to avoid further public controversy, OPA offers to donate one of our buildings located on Capitol Hill to MPLT as headquarters for its operations," said Sablan.

The recently vacated OPA building is located on Yap drive, just east of OPA's administrative building and near MPLT's current location at the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund building.

According to Sablan, the building's interior has been recently renovated inside and its exterior has been recently repainted. The building has office space for four to six staff members, conference space, file storage room, partial furnishings, air conditioning and a private parking area.

"OPA is confident the building would serve MPLT's office needs adequately and provide a suitable location to headquarter MPLT's operations at no cost to MPLT," Sablan said.

OPA recently vacated the building to consolidate operations and to reduce operation costs after staff downsizing in recent years. The building remains in good condition.

"OPA will gladly offer a tour of the building to the MPLT board and staff

members and will press for an official transfer of the building to MPLT through the Office of Personnel Management should MPLT wish to accept this offer," Sablan added.

MPLT, the agency tasked with managing the money generated from leases of public land, is currently housed at the Retirement Fund building on Capitol Hill. In May, the agency's board approved a plan to purchase 4,000 square meters of private land and construct the new building at a cost of roughly \$700,000. Former House Speaker Oscar Rasa, a spokesman for CNMI Descent for Self Government and Indigenous Rights, has raised questions about the agency's purchase, saying it should have used public land instead.

Petitioners have only until July 21 to collect signatures

From Page 1

Sablan, who as a private citizen started the petition last year, said the Attorney General's Office had given her and her supporters until Monday, July 21, 2008, to come up with the needed signatures.

"I am calling on all concerned citizens who want a more open and transparent Legislature to mobilize this week to help collect the 512 signatures that we need in order to get this initiative on the ballot. Every signature counts," said Sablan.

In his letter to Sablan, Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka noted that, even if Sablan collects the required number of signatures, legal issues must still be resolved before the initiative can be placed on the ballot this year.

The Constitution requires that initiatives to amend the Constitution or a general law be placed on the ballot at a regular general election. The current definition of a "regular general election" only includes elections held in odd-numbered years on the first Saturday of November.

For initiatives to be voted on this election, the Legislature needs to change the definition of "regular general election" or call a concurrent special election, Baka said.

While the Open Government Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

Sablan, a freshman lawmaker, said the Legislature's current exemption from the Open Government Act is allowing lawmakers to call or cancel meetings and sessions at a moment's notice, routinely change agendas, and regularly introduce bills and pass them without opportunity for public review. Under the current system, legislators can ignore or deny citizens' requests for information without justification.

She also said previous attempts to reapply the Open Government Act to the Legislature through the legislative process "have ended in failure: legislation has been attacked, delayed, ignored, watered down, or otherwise subverted."

"While the application of the Open Government Act to the Legislature may not seem like such a pressing issue to some at this time, especially in light of the severe fiscal, economic, infrastructural, and social crises we face, I strongly believe that it is precisely because of our deepening hardships that measures to stabilize the legislative process and make it more open to the public have become more crucial than ever. People need and deserve to know what their legislators are doing to tackle the many difficult issues of the day, and they have a right to be more involved in the political process," Sablan said in a statement.

"I am convinced that it is up to the people of this Commonwealth to rise up and demand the transparency and accountability they deserve from their elected officials, and to take direct action to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature through the popular initiative process," she added.

Individuals interested in signing the petition or helping gather signatures may reach Sablan at 285-3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued a statement yesterday condoling with the families of two the Guam National Guardsmen who were killed in action in Afghanistan and extending her prayers to another who was seriously hurt in the same incident.

"I join the people of Guam in mourning the deaths of Sgt. Brian Leon Guerrero and SPC Samson Mora, who were fatally injured in Afghanistan. We also pray for SPC Kalani Echang who was seriously injured in the same incident in Afghanistan," she said.

Bordallo said she has already spoken with the families of Leon Guerrero, 34, and Mora, 28, to offer her condolences and assistance to help them in this difficult time.

"I also spoke with the family of SPC

Echang and I offered my hope for his full recovery and pledged whatever assistance my office can provide.

"Our island mourns the loss of life and we honor their service to our nation. Their ultimate sacrifice for our freedom is a debt that we can never fully repay. We will remember them as heroes and we will do whatever we can to help ease the burden on their families," she added.

Leon Guerrero and Mora died of injuries sustained after their vehicle struck an improvised bomb.

The two, together with Echang, are members of the Guam National Guardsmen serving with the Alpha Company in Afghanistan. About 180 soldiers from Alpha Company of the Guam Army National Guard are serving in Afghanistan. (Saipan Tribune)

Live fire training on Farallon de Mendenilla

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam are warning the public that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on July 14-18, 2008, from 7am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

American life becoming cheaper, says EPA report

From Page 1

in May—a drop of nearly \$1 million from just five years ago.

The Associated Press discovered the change after a review of cost-benefit analyses over more than a dozen years.

Though it may seem like a harmless bureaucratic recalculation, the devaluation has real consequences.

When drawing up regulations, government agencies put a value on human life and then weigh the costs versus the lifesaving benefits of a proposed rule. The less a life is worth to the government, the less the need for a regulation, such as tighter restrictions on pollution.

Consider, for example, a hypothetical regulation that costs \$18 billion to enforce but will prevent 2,500 deaths. At \$7.8 million per person (the old figure), the lifesaving benefits outweigh the costs. But at \$6.9 million per person, the rule costs more than the lives it saves, so it may not be adopted.

Some environmentalists accuse the Bush administration of changing the value to avoid tougher rules—a charge the EPA denies.

"It appears that they're cooking the books in regards to the value of life," said S. William Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, which represents state and local air pollution regulators. "Those decisions are literally a matter of life and death."

Dan Esty, a senior EPA policy official in the administration of the first President Bush and now director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, said: "It's hard to imagine that it has other than a political motivation."

Agency officials say they were just following what the science told them.

The EPA figure is not based on people's earning capacity, or their po-

tential contributions to society, or how much they are loved and needed by their friends and family—some of the factors used in insurance claims and wrongful-death lawsuits.

Instead, economists calculate the value based on what people are willing to pay to avoid certain risks, and on how much extra employers pay their workers to take on additional risks. Most of the data is drawn from payroll statistics; some comes from opinion surveys. According to the EPA, people shouldn't think of the number as a price tag on a life.

The EPA made the changes in two steps. First, in 2004, the agency cut the estimated value of a life by 8 percent. Then, in a rule governing train and boat air pollution this May, the agency took away the normal adjustment for one year's inflation. Between the two changes, the value of a life fell 11 percent, based on today's dollar.

EPA officials say the adjustment was not significant and was based on better economic studies. The reduction reflects consumer preferences, said Al McGartland, director of EPA's office of policy, economics and innovation.

"It's our best estimate of what consumers are willing to pay to reduce similar risks to their own lives," McGartland said.

But EPA's cut "doesn't make sense," said Vanderbilt University economist Kip Viscusi. EPA partly based its reduction on his work. "As people become more affluent, the value of statistical lives go up as well. It has to." Viscusi also said no study has shown that Americans are less willing to pay to reduce risks.

At the same time that EPA was trimming the value of life, the Department of Transportation twice raised its life value figure. But its number is still lower than the EPA's.

MVA seeks to draw Korean honeymooners



Participants in the My Marianas Honeymoon Workshop pose at Chunghu-ho Resort in South Korea after the event.

The Marianas Visitors Authority held a *My Marianas Honeymoon Workshop* at Chunghu-ho Resort in South Korea on July 4 - 5. There were 36 travel agents in attendance as well as two attendees from Asiana Airlines, five from CNMI hotels, six from MVA and three media representatives.

The workshop was developed in early June with a goal of being held two weeks prior to Weddex in order to boost the sales of the Northern Marianas honeymoon product at the fair and to increase the total number of Korean honeymooners during the fall season.

MVA, Asiana Airlines and hotel representatives conducted a presentation on the destination and its products. A short quiz session with prizes followed each presentation. Brainstorming sessions were also held with the participants, which covered three topics including "what would you do to promote the Northern Marianas Honeymoon products if you were with MVA," "Best active honeymoon itinerary," and "Best romantic honeymoon itin-

Tabi TV Japan completes filming in CNMI

Tabi TV recently filmed on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota for a one-hour cable documentary travel program that will air in October.

With a viewership of 2,504,000, the story will promote the semi-long stay opportunities on the islands to the active senior market in Japan. The program is scheduled to air five times giving the Commonwealth great exposure in Japan. The estimated ad value is US\$213,500.

In addition to filming the program, the crew met with the MVA Active Senior Ad Hoc committee to learn more about their goals and initiatives to attract this market. This was a great collaboration, MVA said

erary." Participants were divided into six groups and each group did a presentation on their ideas. Many interesting and fresh ideas came out of this brainstorming



session, MVA said.

On day two, the participants were involved in several activities for team building and another quiz session testing

the participants' knowledge of the Northern Marianas. The winner of the quiz received a three-night coupon from Pacific Islands Club. The participants

in a statement.

MVA members who made this possible include Mariana Resort & Spa, Saipan Sea Venture, Sand Castle, Tasi Tours, Kinpachi Restaurant, Pacific Eagle and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

"The active senior market is a potentially lucrative market for the CNMI's tourism industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This feature on the CNMI from Tabi TV will heighten awareness on the destination among the active senior market in Japan." (MVA)

From left, Takeshi Hatoyama (producer), David Ada (MVA), and Yuichi Saruwatari (director and cameraman) pose at the Garapan Street Market.



Travel agents participate in a quiz about the Northern Marianas during the two-day My Marianas Honeymoon Workshop.

Seo from Nasa Tour, Busan.

MVA plans to launch several programs to promote the honeymoon market. These programs include Volume Incentives for 10 travel agents based on total sales volume in October and November, Wedding Fair On-Spot Sales Incentives where travel agents receive an incentive for each sale made on the Marianas Honeymoon product at upcoming wedding fairs such as Weddex. Honeymooners who buy the Marianas Honeymoon product will receive beach slippers and shoulder bags.

MVA acknowledged Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Pacific Islands Club and Saipan World Resort for their support.

The CNMI used to be the one of the most popular honeymoon destinations for the Korean honeymooners in mid- and late 1990s. MVA and partners Asiana Airlines, hotels, and travel agents are implementing various promotions to recapture this market. (MVA)

Japanese concert at Hyatt a success



Winners of the 2008 Miss Saipan beauty pageant pose after the awarding at the Hyatt regency Saipan's SandCastle. From left, Asu Ka, Shoko Hamada, Yoshimi Hamasaki, and Marika Minami.



Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, fifth from right, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, fifth from left, pose with Japanese celebrities and Miss Saipan contestants after the concert at the SandCastle Thursday night.

Japanese entertainment celebrities kicked off a charity concert Thursday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle, with hundreds from Japan and members of the Japanese community on Saipan in attendance to watch the show.

The occasion also served as the awarding gala for the 2008 Miss Saipan beauty pageant. The con-

test itself was held in Japan but the presentation of awards was held prior to the concert.

The Grand Prix Award went to Shoko Hamada, while the Miss Photogenic award went to both Yoshimi Hamazaki and Kaori Minami. A Special Award was presented to Asu Ka.

Afterwards, Japanese celebrities

Kojiro Shimizu, Tamotsu Ishibashi, and Goro Noguchi took the stage for a night of popular Japanese music.

"It was a short concert, but everyone was really satisfied," said Pacific Eagle Enterprises vice president Aya Matsumoto.

The group left Friday but they promised to come back to Saipan next year. (Jacqueline Hernandez)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Too many prisoners

Two reports by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics show that the rate of growth in the prison and jail populations of the United States has slowed slightly but that the country still has the dubious distinction of being the largest jailer in the world. As of June 30, 2007, the country held roughly 2.3 million people behind bars, either in local or state jails or in federal prisons.

The cost of housing and caring for inmates has been astronomical, an estimated \$55 billion annual expense for taxpayers, according to the Pew Center on the States. The bloated number of inmates has been particularly painful for states, some of which have been forced to cut spending for higher education to fund corrections programs. As a result, California is considering an overhaul of its prison policies, as are Kentucky, Mississippi, Rhode Island and South Carolina.

This fiscal crisis should be a wake-up call for all states. Tough sentences for murder, rape and the like are unquestionably necessary and contributed to a drop in such crimes over the past two decades. But prisons should be focused on holding the most dangerous criminals rather than on warehousing nonviolent, first-time offenders.

States should consider, as New Jersey is, redirecting nonviolent, first-time drug offenders to rehabilitation programs. Like California, states should also debate early release for the most well-behaved inmates who have no violence in their records—an approach that provides an incentive for good behavior. And states should consider reducing harsh penalties for nonviolent drug offenses. Some states are considering eliminating parole and thus saving the cost of employing agents to provide the supervision. They should be careful; oversight of recently released prisoners can be critical in keeping them on track.

On a national level, Congress should continue to press ahead with legislation to reduce the sentencing disparity between convictions for crack and powder cocaine; the guidelines call for a person convicted of possessing five grams of crack cocaine to serve the same mandatory minimum sentence as someone caught with 500 grams of powder cocaine. The disparity has, among other things, led to a disproportionate number of African-Americans behind bars for possession of relatively small quantities of cocaine. Modest reductions in the federal sentencing guidelines for crack have brought some balance to the penalties, but more needs to be done.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



When beautiful people are in crisis, things can get ugly

By ROBIN GIVHAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The shamelessly vengeful divorce of former model and serial wife Christie Brinkley from architect and porn aficionado Peter Cook exuded a raw, publicist-free honesty that made folks visibly uncomfortable even as they found it impossible to turn away.

The nastiness that erupted inside a Long Island, N.Y., courtroom was documented everywhere from E! Entertainment to "Larry King Live." The highbrow among us might declare the overwhelming interest in the case to be evidence of the decline of our mores, our media and our dignity. Students of popular culture could argue that if this case is examined in all its minutiae, it will surely say something about contemporary society. All would agree that just viewing the sordid mess was akin to rolling in the mud. But one man's cesspool is another's spa treatment.

To recap: Brinkley and Cook, who with their bouncing blond locks and "Gattaca" smiles look eerily like brother and sister, married in 1996. Ten years later, she filed for divorce. The marriage fell apart for numerous reasons, but the ones given a public airing include his affair with an 18-year-old girl who was his employee, his \$3,000 a month on Internet porn and the \$300,000 in hush money he paid to his love muffin.

We know all these salacious details because—before the case was settled Thursday—Brinkley wanted the court proceedings open to the public. Some may be indignant that a mother would allow her youngest children—ages 13 and 10—to be exposed to all this dirty laundry. But it's possible that all the time actually living in the household might have given them some hint that Daddy was a porn freak and Mommy was really, really mad.

A psychiatrist testified that Cook has problems with narcissism and an oversized ego. The doctor also noted that Brinkley makes poor choices in men—this is her fourth marriage—and has hellacious anger issues that do not appear to have cooled since Cook's shenanigans were revealed about two years ago. One assumes the doctor wrapped the diagnosis in all manner of technical verbiage. Otherwise, he did not earn his fee, because any regular reader of the tabloids would have been able to deliver a similar assessment.

Our fascination with this tale is in part due to schadenfreude: Men even cheat on supermodels! This golden couple's life unraveled like a story line on "Desperate Housewives"—and that's Emmy-winning entertainment. But at the core of our enthrallment is the recognition that, in a world of carefully calibrated public facades, real unbridled emotions had been set loose. These were not just celebrities behav-

ing badly. This was the id going berserk, a real-life revenge fantasy that came close to bunny boiling.

The public flaying of the cheater by the cheatee, while unpleasant, seems so much more human than those instances in which everyone stands around looking pained but stoic. See: Spitzers, McGreeveys, Vitters, Craigs, Clintons and all those other political couples in which the wife stood by the badly behaving husband, and all you could think was how it looked like she wanted to smack him and who would blame her if she did. Which is worse? The scorned political wife who stifles her rage? Or the bitter celebrity wife who decides to run up a tidy sum on her husband's credit card?

That's what Cynthia Rodriguez—Mrs. A-Rod—allegedly did when she flew to Paris, went on a shopping spree and stayed with her good friend Lenny Kravitz, whose rock star shoulders would seem ideal for a married woman to lean on in a time of turmoil. Citing adultery, Cynthia Rodriguez filed for divorce from her baseball star husband, Alex, who could give lessons in smiling for the cameras as if nothing is wrong. As TV crews followed the Yankee into his New York apartment, the man accused of spending special private time with Madonna exuded such a beatific glow one might have thought he'd just come back from an audience with the pope.

The details of the A-Rod divorce promise to be skeezy, sordid and captivating as average folks marvel at how people who seem to have hit the jackpot in life—spouse, kids, good looks, health and a great job for which one is ridiculously overpaid—still manage to muck things up.

That's why there's so little guilt in savoring these morsels of gossip. The participants have no one to blame but themselves as they wrestle over children, property and the kind of monthly alimony payments that could support small towns in Pennsylvania. Don't bite your tongue. Tell us how you really feel.

Remember when Ellen Barkin decided to rid her jewelry box of millions of dollars worth of reminders of her ex-husband Ron Perelman? She auctioned the baubles for charity. It was a jaw-dropping revelation when Kevin Federline went all father-of-the-year pious on Britney Spears. And there was the YouTube rant by the estranged wife of the Broadway theater mogul in which she spewed vitriol about his Viagra hoarding.

If you look closely at the tawdriest celebrity divorces, there isn't any revelatory lesson. We already know that no one is perfect. And aren't we all pretty clear on how to behave vindictively? The rub, though, is that usually we don't, at least not publicly. Like those political wives, we squelch the id for the sake of reputation, kids, job ... avoiding a prison record. The celebrities boil the bunnies so we don't have to.

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Do your Web searches reflect your morals?

By **MONICA HESSE**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Question: Do you think your Google habits—your random, untethered wisps of thoughts manifested as search terms like “unexplained hives” and “Kate Beckinsale single?”—can be bundled together to paint an accurate representation of your morality?

This was the question floating around the periphery of a recent obscenity case, in which a Florida attorney planned to argue that Google records of pornographic searches were an indication of community values.

The trial was to have begun on Tuesday; last week mainstream media speculated on its outcome. Instead, the case settled out of court with defendant Clinton Raymond McCowen—who had also been charged with racketeering and prostitution—agreeing to three to five years in prison.

So the viability of a Google defense remains untested, but the 21st-century psychological implications remain:

Are we what we Google?
(Dear God. Hope not.)

Our story begins online, as many lurid things do these days, with the pornographic Web site of McCowen, a Pensacola-area man who produced X-rated material for Internet purchase.

Our story develops through the creativity and tech-savviness of his lawyer, Lawrence Walters.

Obscenity charges hinge on the vague concept of community standards—whether allegedly obscene material would fall under the public’s definition of decency. Walters found traditional barometers (skin flick selection in local video stores, etc.) bogus. “What we really do in our bedrooms is much different than what we admit to doing” in public, he says.

Enter Google Trends. It’s a Google tool that graphically displays the day’s most popular search terms, or lets users compare multiple terms’ popularity over time. Theoretically, it’s a direct line to our innermost thoughts and desires, and those of friends and neighbors.

Walters and his team used Google Trends to compare several search terms in Pensacola, one of dozens of cities for which metrics are available. A couple clicks later, and “we could show that orgies are more popular than apple pie or boating in

the Pensacola area,” says Walters.

Barely even a contest, really, with the blue “orgy” line on the graph soaring way above the red pie line. The graph doesn’t reveal specific numbers, just comparative popularity.

Orgies: more American than apple pie. Maybe.

Because the real trick in making use of Google search terms is figuring out how to interpret them.

Does the fact that more people Googled “pomegranate” than “watermelon” in early 2008 mean that more people were eating pomegranates? Or does it mean that everyone was researching the wonderfood’s antioxidant properties? Maybe people hate pomegranates and everyone was rushing to blog about those weird seeds.

Do more people in Pensacola really have orgies than go boating? Even though the city is on the Gulf of Mexico?

The uncertainty illustrates “the disparity between using the Web as a marketing tool and using it as a research tool,” says Gary Price, a librarian and the vice president of innovation for an Internet search firm. Meaning, when someone types in “Peru,” the Web surfer might be looking to visit. But the person might just want to find out

the country’s gross national product. We have no way of knowing.

A Google Trends defense in court assumes that every prurient Googler is interested in visiting Orgyland, rather than learning about its exports from a safe distance.

And safe distance is really Google’s biggest sell. Google is where we safely learn about swinging, erotic furies, objectum-sexual (don’t ask, just Google) and a whole manner of other subcultures that we don’t necessarily plan to partake in, but feel compelled to research nonetheless. Because we can. Because they’re there. Because we can ask our own mothers for apple pie recipes. “Orgy” might be a popular search term not because it’s a popular practice, but because it’s not. (ital) How do all those limbs fit together, anyway?(end ital)

The Internet so easily lends itself to depravity. How we behave in public might not be how we behave in our bedrooms, but how we behave on Google doesn’t seem to reflect how we behave in bedrooms either. It’s more like how we behave at a drunken bachelor party in Las Vegas.

Using Google Trends to ascertain community standards? Well, that’s just comparing apples and orgies.

When the talk turns to Madonna and Alex Rodriguez

By **JOHN KENNEY**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

“(US) magazine reported that not only has A-Rod been making late-night visits to (Madonna’s) ... apartment, but he also was at her place soon after his wife, Cindy, gave birth to their second daughter ... possibly as early as the night after his wife gave birth.”

—New York Post

Madonna’s kitchen, Upper West Side, Manhattan. After midnight. A bucket of ice and a bottle of gin sit on the table between them.

A-ROD: What was I saying?

MADONNA: I wasn’t really listening. Something about a curve ball?

A-ROD: Oh yeah. The thing about a curve ball is that you think it’s way outside the strike zone. I mean, it’s, like, coming right at your head and then, boom, drops right over the plate. It’s embarrassing, to be honest.

MADONNA: We need more ice.

A-ROD: Oh. I had another kid.

MADONNA: That’s nice. When?

A-ROD: Yesterday, I think.

MADONNA: Boy? Girl?

A-ROD: Girl, I think. I forget. Lemme ask you something. What was “Desperately Seeking Susan” about? I didn’t really get it. Like “Tommy

Boy,” “Mr. Deeds,” “Toy Story”—I get those. I see that you’re wearing a leather onesie. Is that comfortable?

MADONNA: Versace made it for me years ago.

A-ROD: Sometimes you sound like you have an English accent.

MADONNA: It’s an affectation.

A-ROD: Yikes. Does that hurt?

MADONNA: I’m really tired.

They drink.

MADONNA: I don’t recognize this city anymore. The meatpacking district used to be so ... it’s a theme park now. Hell’s Kitchen is a suburb. The Upper West might as well be Indianapolis.

A-ROD: Ask me state capitals.

MADONNA: No.

A-ROD: Do taxes bug you? They bug me. People don’t realize that \$28 million a year is really only about \$14 million. Wanna see my abs?

MADONNA: No, thanks. How’s your marriage?

A-ROD: Good. Pretty good. Not great. You?

MADONNA: Do you ever wonder if there’s true love? If we’re meant to be with just one person for the rest of our lives, if just one person can satisfy every need, grow with you, challenge you, move you, turn you on?

A-ROD: Honestly? I like big boobs. Also, A-Rod’s not my real name.

MADONNA: It’s getting late.

A-ROD: Tell me more about this religious thing ... this kabuki.

MADONNA: Kabbalah. It’s a Hebrew word. It means “receiving.” It’s been called the mystical part of Judaism, and it’s a part of Torah study. Some say it’s the true path to Jewish spiritual wisdom. Others say it’s heresy.

Pause

A-ROD: My point is that a curve doesn’t look like it’s going to be anywhere near the plate. You’re sure you don’t want to see my abs? Or I could look at yours.

MADONNA: We need more ice. Ya’ want to know the irony?

A-ROD: The what?

MADONNA: The irony is I’m not very materialistic. I just want to be left alone like a normal person whilst at the same time being covered extensively in print, broadcast and online media.

A-ROD: There are days where I’ll do, like, 500 sit-ups. Not all at once though. We’ve got this one guy on our team, Japanese fella; I can’t understand a word he says. We could make out if you wanted.

MADONNA: I’m good. Top off?

She pours more gin

MADONNA: Do you know who Raymond Carver is?

A-ROD: He was Perry Mason.

MADONNA: No. He was a writer. Wrote a lot about relationships. You must have a lot of time to read, on the road, between games and strip clubs.

A-ROD: Totally. Like, how d’ya mean?

MADONNA: Forget it.

A-ROD: Do you think Derek Jeter is cute? I do. Does that sound weird?

MADONNA: I don’t know who that is.

Pause

MADONNA: No one saw you come in tonight, right?

A-ROD: I don’t think so. Lemme ask you a question. When you’re acting, in, say, “Evita,” and you’re saying a line, do you know you’re acting or do you really think you’re Evita? And who was Evita? Also, what is “Belgium”? Why is it “England,” “Ireland,” “Scotland” but not “France-land”?

MADONNA: You’re lucky you’re cute.

A-ROD: People seem to like you. Why don’t they like me?

MADONNA: Could be that you’re here at 3 a.m., shirtless, a baseball glove on your head, while your wife and children are elsewhere.

A-ROD: Seriously though.

MADONNA: Who’s to say? Money, fame, beauty. People are jealous and curious. They think our lives are better. But what they don’t know, what we can never tell them, is that we’re just not that interesting when it comes right down to it.

A-ROD: I missed the last part.

MADONNA: Shhh. Just ... will you please be quiet please?

Kenney is a writer in New York.

The thin bluetooth line

By **JOEL STEIN**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

I’m not a good driver. This is partly because I lived without a car in Manhattan for 11 years, but mainly because I consider driving a background activity. Sure, occasionally I have to steer or accelerate, but mostly I’m just conveniently moving forward while I text, eat, check out women, write down ideas, listen to NPR and return calls, sometimes all at the same time. Every so often, when I’m particularly fidgety, I’m sad there’s no such thing as man makeup.

So when I found out that California cops can now pull you over for talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device, I wanted to know how to avoid a ticket. My first instinct was to buy a hands-free device. But then I realized I could ride around with a traffic cop, figure out what tips him off and just avoid doing that stuff.

Officer John Stafford was the worst person the Los

Angeles Police Department could have given me. He’s so insanely nice and polite that he gets in trouble for averaging only 1.3 tickets a day, compared with three or four issued daily by most officers.

“I gave three warnings yesterday,” he told me. “I can’t do that. I’ve got to write something.”

We were in the squad car about five minutes when he asked me what I wanted to go do. I don’t know much about policing, but I do know that I should have absolutely no decision-making power over it.

Apparently, cell-phone users have nearly disappeared since the new law went into effect. Still, I tell Stafford I want to go pull over some hands-free scofflaws. So he asks around and gets word that Hollywood’s Melrose Avenue is the place.

It turns out it’s pretty hard to catch someone talking on a cell phone if they see you in a cop car. So we get out on a corner and look for offenders. That’s when Stafford is approached by Chance Parker, a music producer with a lot of phone ques-

tions. Parker, shocked to hear cops can indeed pull him over just for talking into his phone, turns into a kind of cell phone Supreme Court lawyer.

“Even if your Bluetooth goes out for a second, you can pull me over? What if your Blue-tooth isn’t working? You’re just basically like, lost call?”

The law, as Parker learned, can be cruelly unjust.

We spot a lot more drivers from the corner, but it’s hard to pull them over from the sidewalk. Luckily, as soon as we get back in the car, we spot a guy in a Land Rover chatting like a man with no respect for the law or safety or America in general. We put on the lights and pull him over. He does not act at all surprised by this, even though the law is new and one of the people approaching his car is wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

The perp starts in with an excuse about his using Bluetooth despite what we both saw. Which, it turns out, I’m pretty sure is true. His phone, after all, rings straight into his car’s speaker system, which we discover when someone else calls him. Still, the dude

held the phone to his face, so Stafford screws up the courage to write the \$73 citation.

“I’m bummed that I have to sit here and I wasn’t even on the phone,” the criminal tells me. “When I’m on Bluetooth I’ll chew on it or hold it up to my face. It’s just instinct.”

This is a defense more typically given with a handdog look and canine whine.

“Here’s your copy. Please be careful,” Stafford said, handing him the ticket. Then he added, I guess to be comforting: “Officially, you’re my first ticket of this new law.”

Back in the car, Stafford seemed relieved. “It went real good. Boy, he was real cooperative. Real nice.”

Our missions accomplished -- he finally having written a ticket and I having learned not to drive on Melrose -- I told Stafford that I hoped to see him again, although not while he was pulling me over.






“I’ll let you go,” he said.

I already knew that.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

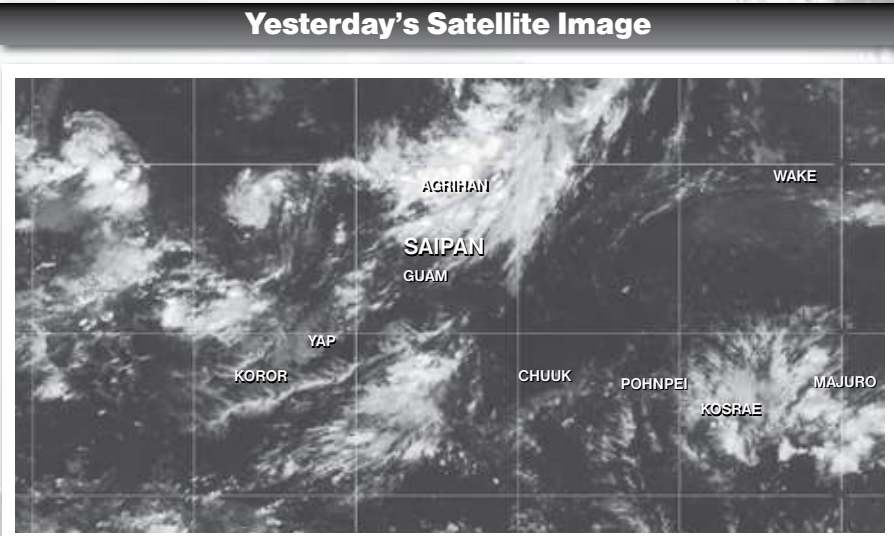
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼69
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼46
Beijing	Sunny	▲99 ▼77
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲68 ▼55
Los Angeles	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼72
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Paris	Cloudy	▲70 ▼50
Pusan	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼70
Salem	Cloudy	▲86 ▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲75 ▼57
Seoul	Cloudy	▲87 ▼73
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲94 ▼71

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
2:35AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:33AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:12PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:14PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N148e through a weak circulation centered near 20N136E then continues westward to beyond 130E at 19N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are occurring north of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 25N155E to 25N148E to 22N145E to 22N135E to 18N135E to 22N150E back to 25N155E. Convergent southwesterly monsoon flow south of the trough axis is also generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Yap and Koror and over sections of the Marianas or within an area bounded by a line from 19N143E to 15N130E to 10N130E to 12N145E to 15N145E back to 19N143E. A surface trough arcs northward from 1N137E to 9N138E. Convergence near and east of the trough is causing scattered rain showers and a few thunderstorms east of Yap or within 75 miles of a line running northward from 5N138E to 11N143E. Trade-wind convergence and several weak troughs are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over three areas of eastern Micronesia. The first is within 75 miles of a line extending eastward from 7N148E to 8N154E over Chuuk. The second is between 5N and 10N from 162E to 165E over Kosrae. The last is within 150 miles of line running southeastward from 7N172 to 4N174E and eastward to 4N180 over Majuro. A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N180 to 22N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring northeast of Wake Island between 19N and 22N from 168E to 178E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:54AM	6:51 PM	Today	2:42PM	1:23AM
Monday	5:54AM	6:51 PM	Monday	3:35PM	2:07AM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM	Tuesday	4:27PM	2:54AM
Wednesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM	Wednesday	5:18PM	3:44AM
Thursday	5:55AM	6:51 PM	Wednesday	6:07PM	4:37AM

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Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008				
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota		Rota-Saipan		
CO 9313	8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6	
Saipan-Guam		Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	4:00am 4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am Daily	
CO9597	8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily	
CO9313	8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota	
CO9601	12:30pm 1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7	
CO9603	3:30pm 4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm 7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily	
Saipan-Narita		Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am 7:40am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:55pm Daily	
NW 078	8:55am 2:00pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily	
NW 075	4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily	
Saipan-Osaka		Osaka-Saipan		
NW 083	4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am 3:05pm Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya		Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:55am 11:35am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily	
Saipan-Manila		Manila-Saipan		
CO 895	4:45pm 6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am 2:55pm 6	
CO 895	6:45pm 8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am 5:35pm 3	
Saipan-Seoul		Seoul-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7	
OZ 604	2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:10am+1 7	
OZ 606	3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6	
Saipan-Busan		Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7	
Guam-Manila		Manila-Guam		
CO 891	6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am 4:55pm 2,7	
CO 893	6:30am 8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm 1:20am+1 6	
CO 893	8:25am 10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap	
CO 893	5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror	
CO 933	7:00pm 8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily	
PR 111	6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7	
Saipan-Guanzhou		Guanzhou-Saipan		
CZ 3008	5:00am 8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5	
Guam-Hongkong		Hongkong-Guam		
CO 909	6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5	
Guam-Rota		Rota-Guam		
CO 9598	10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

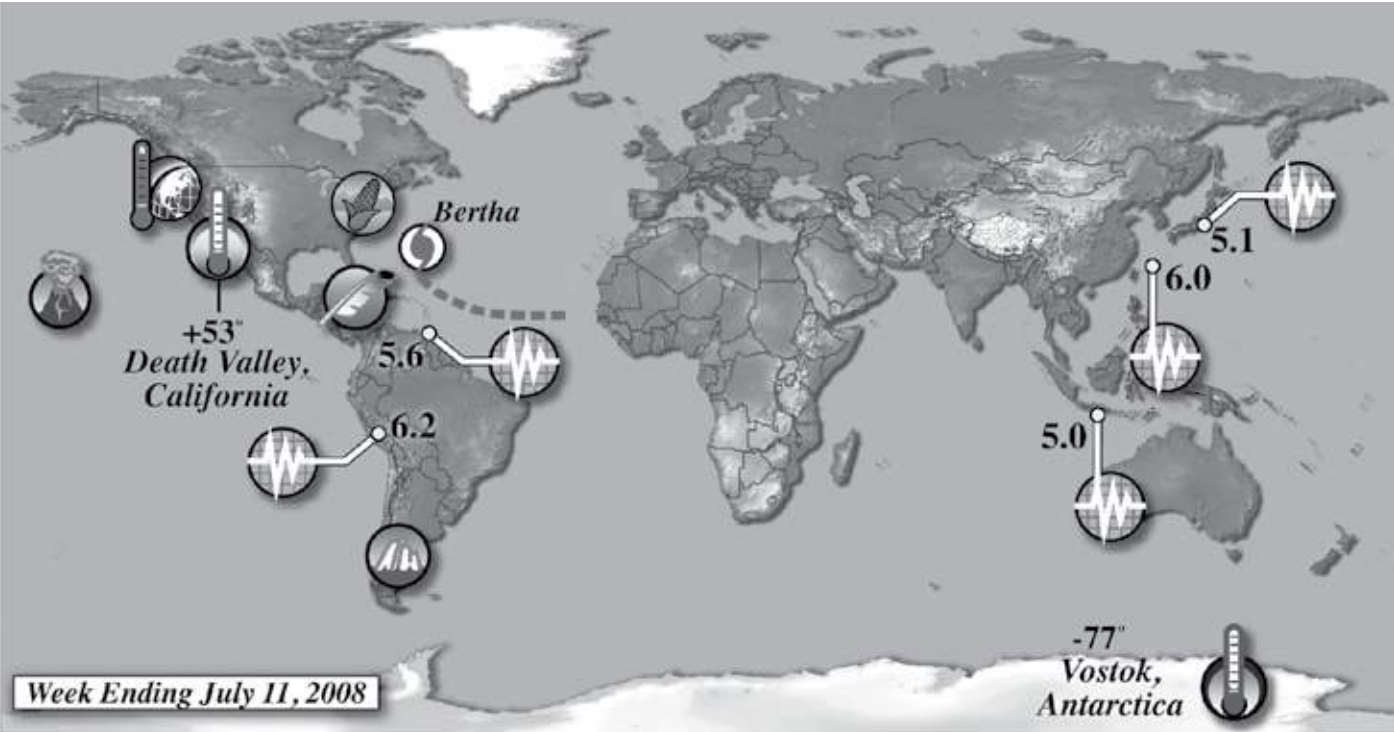
FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily	
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily	
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

Schedule of Religious Services																		
CATHOLIC																		
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm																		
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm																		
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm																		
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am																		
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm																		
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm																		
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm																		
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm																		
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm																		
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am																		
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm																		
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism																		
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am																		
PROTESTANT																		
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm																		
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm																		
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm																		
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm																		
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions																		
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm																		
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)																		
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto																		
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)																		
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)																		
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday																		
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm																		
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)																		
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm																		
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm																		
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620																		
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm																		
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)																		
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm																		
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm																		
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm																		
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship				
	9am	Sunday school																
	10am	Regular worship																
	6pm	worship																
Wednesday	7pm	worship																
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism																		
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr><tr><td>Koblerville</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday 7pm-9pm</td><td>Prayer meeting</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday 7pm-9pm</td><td>Tagalog service</td></tr><tr><td>Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gualo Rai, Saipan</td><td></td></tr></table> Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,	Koblerville		Wednesday 7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting	Saturday 7pm-9pm	Tagalog service	Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church		Gualo Rai, Saipan	
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Saturday 7pm-9pm	Tagalog service																	
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church																		
Gualo Rai, Saipan																		

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Biofuel Food Spike

A draft World Bank report reveals that growing crops for biofuels, along with diminished grain supplies, market speculation and export bans, have been responsible for three quarters of the 140 percent rise in food prices over the last six years. The report's author, World Bank top agricultural economist Don Mitchell, said the remainder of the increase has been due to a weak U.S. dollar, higher fertilizer costs and soaring energy fees. The report contradicts earlier estimates of bio-fuel's effects on food prices that have ranged between 2 and 3 percent claimed by the Bush administration and up to 30 percent calculated by the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. "Without the increase in biofuels, global wheat and maize stocks would not have declined appreciably and price increases due to other factors would have been moderate," Mitchell said.

Flat-Screen Warming

The gas used in manufacturing liquid crystal display (LCD) flat-screen televisions could cause more global warming than coal-fired power plants, according to a report in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. Nitrogen trifluoride's climate-warming effect reportedly could be 17,000 times stronger than that of carbon dioxide, and production of the chemical could double to 8,000 tons next year, according to atmospheric chemist and report co-author Michael Prather. The switch to digital television in the U.S. over the next several months is expected to create a boom in sales of flat-screen televisions, including LCDs. Liquid crystal display sets have often been touted as eco-friendly because they consume less power than plasma or rear-projection sets.

Glacial Breakup

Scientists say that the sudden collapse of part of an Argentine glacier for the first time ever in winter is yet another sign of a warming climate. The Perito Moreno glacier, one of the world's largest, is a popular tourist attraction in the southern Andes. The prediction that a large chunk may break off at any time has drawn sightseers to Los Glaciares National Park from across Argentina. "This is the first time the glacier has broken up in winter. It could be related to global warming as rising temperatures affect ice friction," said park director Carlos Corvalan. Large chunks of ice often break off the glacier into Lake Argentina during the southern summer months, but the appearance of a large fissure in mid-winter is unprecedented.

Record Hurricane

The first named hurricane in the Atlantic basin this year broke records as it formed much farther east than any other storm has so early in the season. The disturbance that eventually became Hurricane Bertha blew off the west coast of Africa in a pattern more typical of late summer. Some hurricane experts say Bertha's formation so far east this early in the season, and its explosive growth from a tropical storm into a major hurricane, could foretell a very active hurricane season.

Earthquakes

At least one person was killed and scores of homes were damaged when a 6.2 magnitude quake struck southern Peru. The shaking triggered landslides that blocked several roads. ■ Earth movements were also felt in metropolitan Tokyo, Okinawa, East Java and

Trinidad and Tobago.

Lava Surge

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano produced a sharp increase in activity that triggered a mild tremor and sent lava shooting 45 feet into the sky. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports that the tremor registered a magnitude of 3.0, and was followed by the normally incandescent Halemaumau vent going dark for several minutes. A flow of lava has been clearly visible snaking eastward from the crater, while underground tubes have expelled lava into the ocean. Geologists believe the recent breakouts of lava have been due to increased gas pressure in the volcano's extensive underground lava tube system. Kilauea has been erupting on and off for 25 years, but more lava than usual is now spewing from the volcano and flowing into the ocean.

'Super Egg'

Cuban TV reports that a hen in the country's eastern city of Guanatanamo has laid a "super egg" that is heavier than the previous Guinness world record holder in Spain. Demmy Rojas, the hen's proud owner, told Solvision TV that he found the bird "showing off" the egg to other chickens in his coop. A station employee told reporters that in other cases of huge eggs, there has been a second egg inside. But he added that no one has tried to find out if that is the case this time because so many people want to see the egg intact. Officially, the egg weighs .377 pounds, making it slightly heavier than the one laid in Spain's Canary Islands. The hen, whose identity is being kept secret, is said to be a mix of several breeds.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Dog meat off the menu during Beijing Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Canine cuisine is being sent to the doghouse during next month's Beijing Olympic Games. Dog meat has been struck from the menus of officially designated Olympic restaurants, and Beijing tourism officials are telling other outlets to discourage consumers from ordering dishes made from dogs, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. Waiters and waitresses should "patiently" suggest other options to diners who order dog, it said, quoting city tourism bureau Vice Director Xiong Yumei. Dog, known in Chinese as "xiangrou," or "fragrant meat," is eaten by some Chinese for its

purported health-giving qualities. Beijing isn't the first Olympic host to slap a ban on the dish. South Korea banned dog meat during the 1988 Seoul Olympics by invoking a law prohibiting the sale of "foods deemed unsightly." After the Olympics, the ban was not strictly enforced. Dog meat is also eaten in some other Asian countries, including Vietnam, the Philippines and Laos.

Great white shark reported at 'Jaws' filming sites

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) -- The island where "Jaws" was filmed had a real-life shark scare Thursday, when an unconfirmed sighting of a great white forced the closure

of two beaches. South Beach on Martha's Vineyard was closed for a short time, and swimmers were kept out of the water at State Beach in Edgartown, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation said. A plane was dispatched to try to confirm the sighting, but no shark was spotted, said Lisa Capone, a spokeswoman for the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In 1974, Steven Spielberg chose Martha's Vineyard for filming the movie version of "Jaws," depicting a series of deadly great white attacks in the fictional community of Amity. Shark attacks are extremely rare in waters off New England, but great whites have been known to occasionally prowl in the region.

Good Housekeeping

Remodel highlights expansive view, open space

By JANET EASTMAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Marcel Sitcoske and Michael Oddo were living off Mulholland Drive when they bought a house nearby three years ago with plans to fix it up and sell. Oddo recalled taking floor plans along with photographs to the Los Angeles building department. “The guys there laughed and said they’d never seen anything this ugly,” he said. “And they’ve seen a lot.”

But sometime during the construction process, they fell in love with the house and decided to stay. “We moved in before we even had a front door,” Sitcoske said.

The property’s potential was

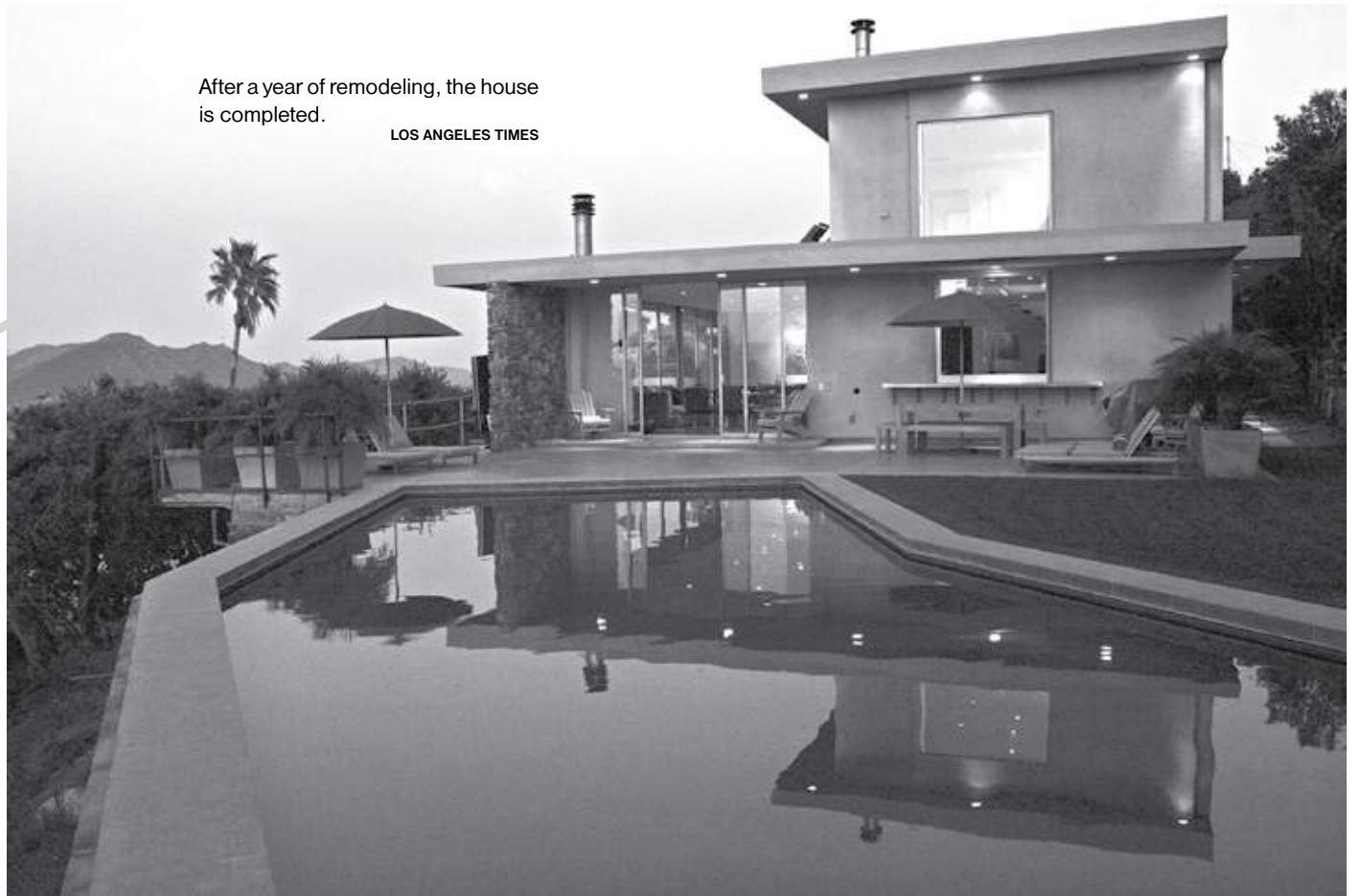
Inside, what had been an entry blocked by walls, with separate doorways to the kitchen, living room and dining room, is now an open 35-foot square with just one remaining structural column.

“Most people feel comfortable in open spaces,” said Sitcoske, an art adviser. She had a contemporary gallery in San Francisco and New York before moving to Los Angeles with Oddo in 2004.

They added a second story, reachable by walnut stairs—treads only, no clunky risers—that jut from the wall, as if levitated by a magician. At the landing, a minimal Robert Rauschenberg “Junction—From Bones and Unions,”

After a year of remodeling, the house is completed.

LOS ANGELES TIMES



Sightlier switches and outlets

Art adviser Marcel Sitcoske points out one design decision that remodelers often neglect: light switches. “Electricians will put a switch anywhere,” she said, shaking her head. Why allow a 50-cent switch plate to compete with her silk-screen “Flowers # 66” by Andy Warhol, a Jasper Johns lithograph or two Ray Charles White silk-screens on aluminum?

Sitcoske consolidated switches when possible; eight are on one steel column between the living room and kitchen. Wall switches are only 37 inches from the floor instead of 48. Outlets are 6 inches off the floor and oriented horizontally.

On walls that needed a light switch, outlet and thermostat, she lined them up vertically, “so subconsciously they don’t disturb the eye.” (*Los Angeles Times*)

in plain sight.

“We bought this house because of the killer view,” Oddo said. “We still climb up on the roof, look out, pinch ourselves.”

The home seems to float over Los Angeles, with mountains and the occasional helicopter straight ahead and what look like Matchbox cars chugging along below. It took a year of subtracting walls and adding subtle details, but now the remodeled house is a sight in itself, perched along Mulholland’s saw-toothed ridges.

made on location in Ahmabad, India, hangs on the white wall. Baseboards are recessed, making walls appear to hover above the limestone floor. In the bathrooms, faucets don’t rest on sinks but hang from the wall, and in the tub, the water cascades from the ceiling.

In the kitchen, appliances are encased in stainless-steel boxes that stop short of the floor. A 17-foot-long stainless-steel counter creates one continuous line suspended across the back wall. “It’s the largest our installer, a Harley-Davidson type of guy,

has ever seen,” Sitcoske said.

“There’s not much that touches the floor or the walls,” she added. “The house is so open you really see everything in a 3-D way.”

The ultimate floating object here is their new master suite. Glass doors spanning 18 feet disappear into pockets, creating an opening to the sky.

“The way it’s set up, the view is almost like an infinity pool. You don’t see anything below the roof line of the first story, so you get past a lot of the less attractive stuff below,” said Oddo, who owns an engineering, cleaning and energy management company. “Fortunately, we don’t have vertigo.”

The singular vision that guided how remodeled spaces were laid out got a little more complicated when it came time to furnish and decorate. For proof,



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Stairs seem to float to the second floor that Marcel Sitcoske and Michael Oddo added to their home. Andy Warhol flowers splash color above the book nooks.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

“The killer view” appears through glass pocket doors spanning 18 feet in the master bedroom.

one need only look to the portable basketball hoop and the golf cart blocking the driveway. The ping-pong table alongside the pool. The billiards table in a prime spot in the living room. They’re all Oddo’s, and when he talks about his toys, Sitcoske just rolls her eyes.

She wanted to keep the furniture to a minimum. She brought in their favorites from the 1930s and ‘40s: two chrome-framed chairs with tobacco leather designed by Gilbert Rohde, Scandinavian chairs once used in a convent in Norway and two sofas upholstered in brown mohair velvet.

But in their old Sausalito



The rough-hewn front door opens onto an uncluttered 35-foot square.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

home—“more like a warehouse,” Oddo said—he could in-line skate, and he had room for a basketball hoop and billiards table.

“Michael’s had a pool table for as long as I’ve known him,” said Sitcoske, who met Oddo in 1995. “So if we have to have one—”

Really, what could she do?

She found a 1946 Brunswick Centennial table with tapered legs finished in rosewood and aluminum. Price: \$25,000.

“It adds an element of playfulness,” she said. “When we have dinner parties, after a little wine, people who have never played before will pick up the cue.”

Sit! Stay! Go green!

By **BETTIJANE LEVINE**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Green roofs are good. They clean the air, cool the house below, provide rest stops for birds and butterflies. If you work well with wood and want to try a green roof, why not start by building one for your dog?

Landscape architect Stephanie Rubin and her partner, sculptor Chris Isner, sell doghouses with rooftop gardens for \$1,000 to \$4,000. Your homemade version will cost a lot less—and the dog in residence will appreciate a plant-topped refuge that is cooler, in every sense of the word, than anything else around.

To start, Rubin and Isner suggest that you create a general design or



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Stephanie Rubin's dog, Gretel, emerges from her doghouse. Note the bamboo drainage spouts. Inset, Stephanie Rubin's dog enjoys a home with a green roof.



Build a basic home repair kit

By **SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA**
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: I'd like to get a complete set of tools for my home. What makes up a basic tool set?—**Jamie B., Valdosta, Ga.**

A: Most home-improvement and hardware stores sell "starter" sets for first-time tool buyers. These include many of the basic items you'll need for minor home repairs, such as pliers, standard and Phillips-head screwdrivers, and assorted sizes and types of wrenches. However, you will need a few more things to complete your home repair kit:

■ **A curved claw hammer and nails**—Make sure the hammer is at least 12 ounces in weight and comfortable to hold. Buy a variety of nails in different sizes and types; most stores offer nail sets.

■ **Adjustable wrench**—A 10-inch adjustable wrench (or a plumber's wrench) is a versatile tool around the house.

Make sure the worm gear operates smoothly and doesn't wobble.

■ **Rotary power drill**—More important than a power screwdriver and probably the most convenient decorating accessory you will ever have. Make sure the drill has variable speeds, a reverse switch and can hold drill bits up to 3/8ths inch.

■ **Steel tape measure**—The model should have a lock button to hold the extended tape in place; purchase one with at least 25 feet of tape. A 1-foot ruler and a yardstick make good companions.

■ **24-inch carpenter's level**—It should have two bubbles: one for measuring horizontal level, and the other for marking vertical plumb.

■ **Handsaw**—Buy a saw marked "general purpose" to handle any variety of wood. Look for a steel blade, about 26 inches long, with a wooden handle.

■ **Hacksaw**—This thin saw cuts metal; the blades are replaceable and come in several grades for cutting different strengths of metal.

■ **Pocketknife and utility knife**—The pocketknife comes in handy for all sorts of tasks; the utility knife has a retractable (and replaceable) blade.

■ **Putty knife**—Used to apply and work plaster, spackle, or—yes—putty. You should have two sizes: a 1-inch blade and a wide-blade wall scraper.

■ **Sandpaper, steel wool, metal file and wire brush**—These come in handy for a variety of cleaning and sharpening tasks.

■ **Duct tape, electrical tape (yes, they're different) and three types of glue:** epoxy, white (PVA) and wood glue.

■ **Spackling compound and wood putty**—These make filling holes and gaps in walls and wood easy.

Finally, having both a step-ladder and an extension ladder will allow you to tackle hard-to-reach repairs, both indoors and out.



H O M E TIP: Sharpen small garden shears and scissors by cutting them through a piece of sandpaper, folded grit-side out. Repeat several times.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

scan for ideas on their Web site, www.sustainablepet.com. They won't mind if you filch.

The configuration of the walls will vary depending on the size of your pet, but the composition of the roof will remain the same: It must be shaped like a sandbox and sloped gently, a maximum of 20 degrees. At the bottom of the slope, drill holes for two or three bamboo drainage spouts that will pull water away from the doghouse. The size of the holes should be determined by the diameter of the bamboo, about three-quarters of an inch to 1 inch. Cut the bamboo into lengths that will extend about 3 inches out from the holes you drilled.

Be sure seams are well caulked and the wood is well glued with

a nontoxic, waterproof wood glue such as Titebond III. The designers suggest building with Forest Stewardship Council-certified red cedar, which they say repels fleas and ticks. Or you can use reclaimed wood treated with a product such as Safecoat Safe Seal to prevent off-gassing. Finish the frame with nontoxic, eco-friendly paint, stain or varnish.

Using a paintbrush, cover the rooftop with two layers of melted natural beeswax, available where candle supplies are sold. Or use a rubberized roofing compound that's low in volatile organic compounds, or VOCs; one example is Elasto-Seal rubber undercoat primer by Snow Roof Systems.

Next add the drainage layer: Cover the roof's surface with 1 inch of gravel or 1-inch-diameter bamboo stalks split lengthwise and placed cut-side down. Cut a piece of landscape fabric slightly larger than the

roof; lay it over the gravel or bamboo. Glue excess fabric to the roof box to keep soil from creeping under.

On top of the fabric, add a 4-inch layer of planting medium—60 percent pumice, 10 percent sand and 30 percent soil rich in organic material. Rubin suggests Supersoil, available at garden stores.

Finally, the plants: Rubin's rooftops are filled with pet-friendly, nonpoisonous, mostly native plants that require no pesticides or fertilizers. Her favorites include woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), stonecrop (*Sedum*, particularly *S. acre*), live forever (*Dudleya*), and common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). Sometimes she uses island bush snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*), coral bells (*Heuchera*) or blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*). All are watered as if they were growing in the ground.

Keep your yard and pet safe from each other

By **DENISE FLAIM**
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

How does your garden grow? If you have companion animals, probably not so well. Here are some tips to keep your hydrangeas unscathed—relatively, at least:

1. STAY OFF THE GRASS:

The list of remedies to prevent those telltale yellow "burn" spots on otherwise emerald lawns is seemingly endless, including feeding your dog yucca extract or tomato juice. Less commonly heard, but maybe more effective: Sprinkle sugar (or any sweet liquid like soda or juice) on the spots: It apparently gives lawn microbes a boost to deal with the high nitrogen content in urine.

But in the end, the best defense is a good offense: Don't give your dogs unsupervised access to the grass.

Emergency maneuver: If you do spot a squat, grab a hose and douse the area thoroughly to dilute the urine and, hopefully, forestall the spot.

2. NIPPED IN THE BUD:

It's easier to prevent a habit from forming than to break one that's already ingrained. Don't let new additions to the house-

hold wander around the yard: Take them on leash to the spot where you want them to eliminate, and continue until the habit is ingrained.

File under "Worth a try": The Pee Post is pheromone-treated plastic yard post that claims to attract a dog to the area to do its business.

(Available for \$8.99 from www.drfsfostersmith.com or call 800-381-7179.)

3. SMELLING LIKE A ROSE:

If only it were so. Owners whose animals eliminate in their yards find that scooping often just isn't enough: The odors linger and make lounging in the vicinity—especially on a windy day—less than pleasurable.

The following recipe has been circulating on dogs lists I have been on for years, and I know it works because I've tried it. The mouthwash breaks down bacteria and leaves a pleasant, if medicinal smell; the dishwashing liquid ensures that it adheres to vertical surfaces.

Best of all, it won't kill your plants.

2 cups amber-colored Listerine
2 ounces green Palmolive dish liquid

2 gallons water

Put in pressure sprayer or hose sprayer and saturate the area. It

lasts for three to five days; reapply after rain.

I have no idea why you can't use any other brand but Palmolive.

4. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT:

Minimizing your dog's, er, output means less scooping for you. Dogs fed raw or homemade diets have substantially less stool because their diets contain no fillers or byproducts that can't be absorbed and used by the body.

The meat of the matter: For those too busy to make super-market runs, consider commercially prepared dehydrated raw dog foods from The Honest Kitchen (www.thehonestkitchen.com). Just be prepared for the sticker shock.

5. GO GREEN:

While your animals can inflict inordinate damage on your outdoor spaces, the opposite is true, too: Studies show a correlation between pesticide use and certain canine cancers. Live with a few weeds, and potentially live with your dog longer.

How now, canine cow: Don't discourage dogs from "grazing" on your all-natural lawn, unless they do it excessively or they are snacking on chemically treated green stuff.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Ribs Supreme

Only 15 minutes of grilling time! The trick: Steam the ribs for an hour in the oven up to 2 days before barbecuing.

COOK: 15 minutes
TOTAL: 1 hour, 15 minutes
MAKES: 6 servings

4 teaspoons (grated) fresh ginger, peeled
2 teaspoons (grated) fresh lemon peel
3/4 teaspoon salt
2 cloves garlic, crushed with

garlic press
4 racks (about 1 pound each)
pork baby back ribs
2 cups BBQ sauce

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In cup, mix ginger, lemon peel, salt and garlic until combined. Rub ginger mixture all over ribs.

2. Place ribs in large (15 1/2-by-11 1/2-inch) roasting pan, overlapping slightly. Pour 2 cups boiling water into roasting pan. Cover pan tightly with foil. Steam ribs 1 hour.

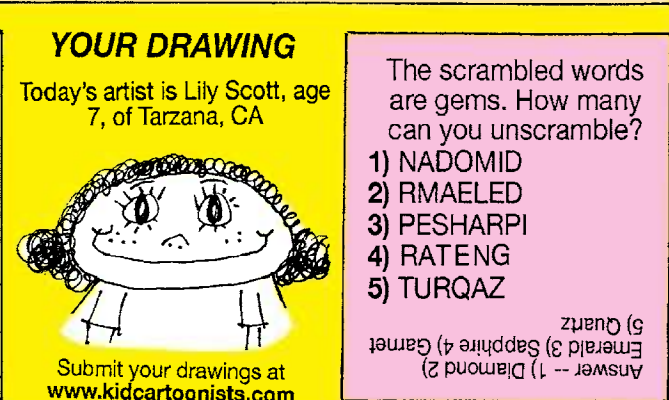
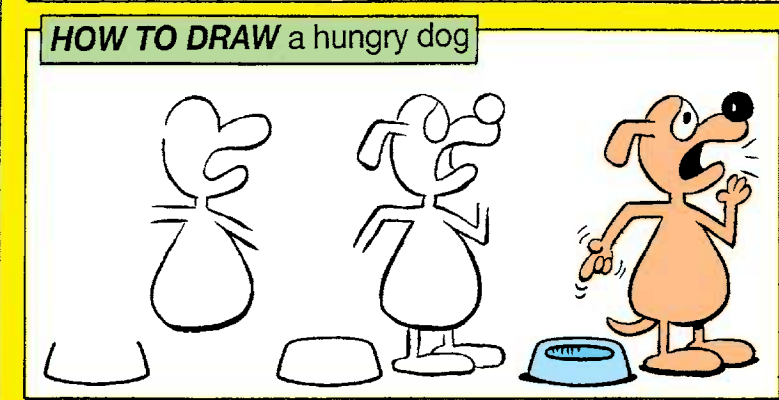
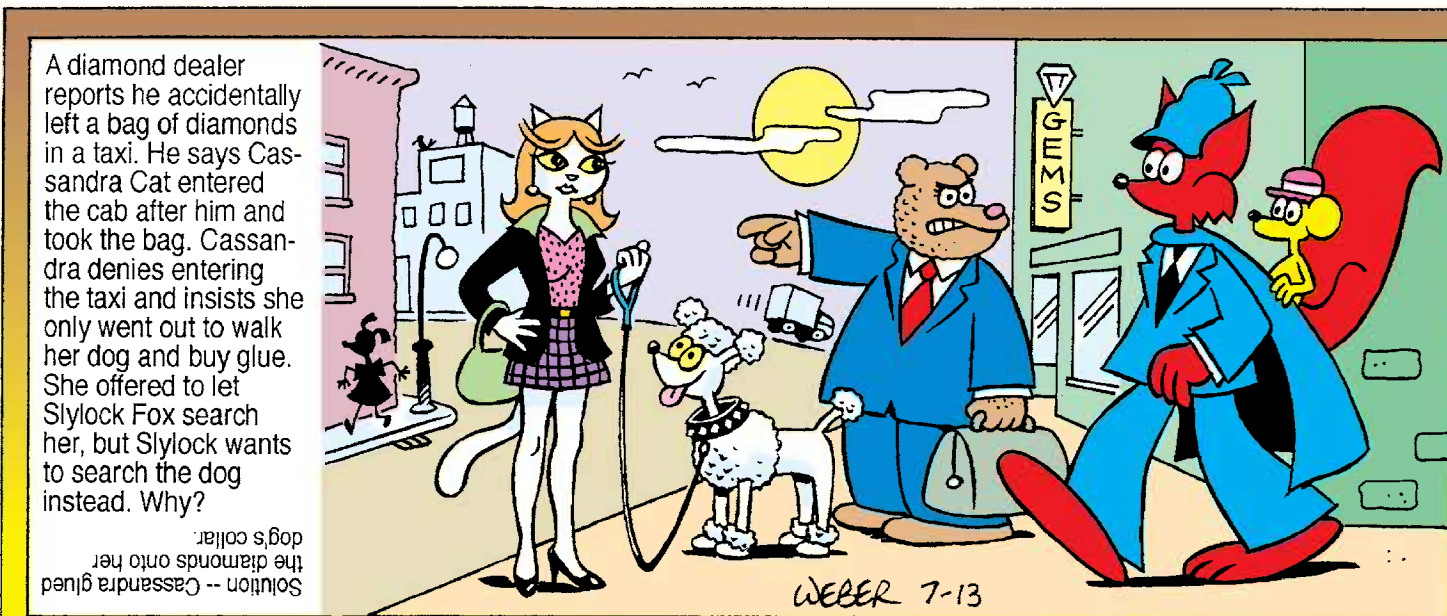
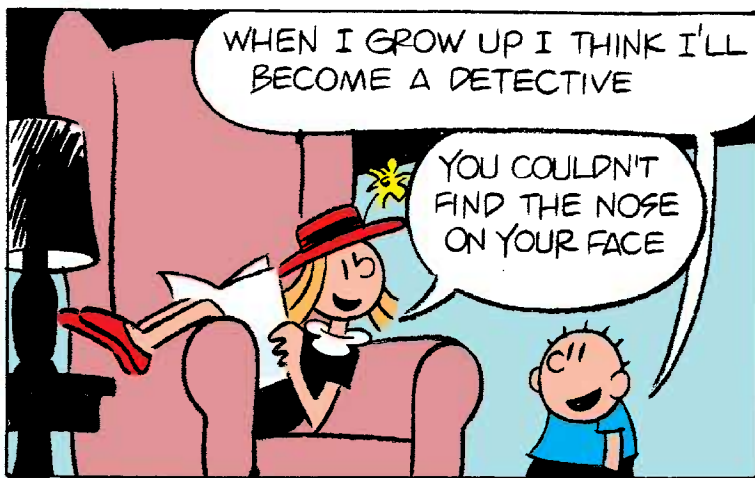
3. Carefully remove foil from roasting pan (escaping steam

is very hot). Remove ribs from roasting pan, discard water. Ribs may be grilled immediately, or refrigerated up to 2 days before grilling.

4. Place ribs, meat side up, on grill over medium heat, cook 5 minutes, turning once. Turn ribs over, brush with some BBQ sauce and grill 5 minutes. Turn ribs over again, brush with more BBQ sauce, and grill 5 minutes longer. Cut racks into 2-rib portions, serve with remaining sauce.

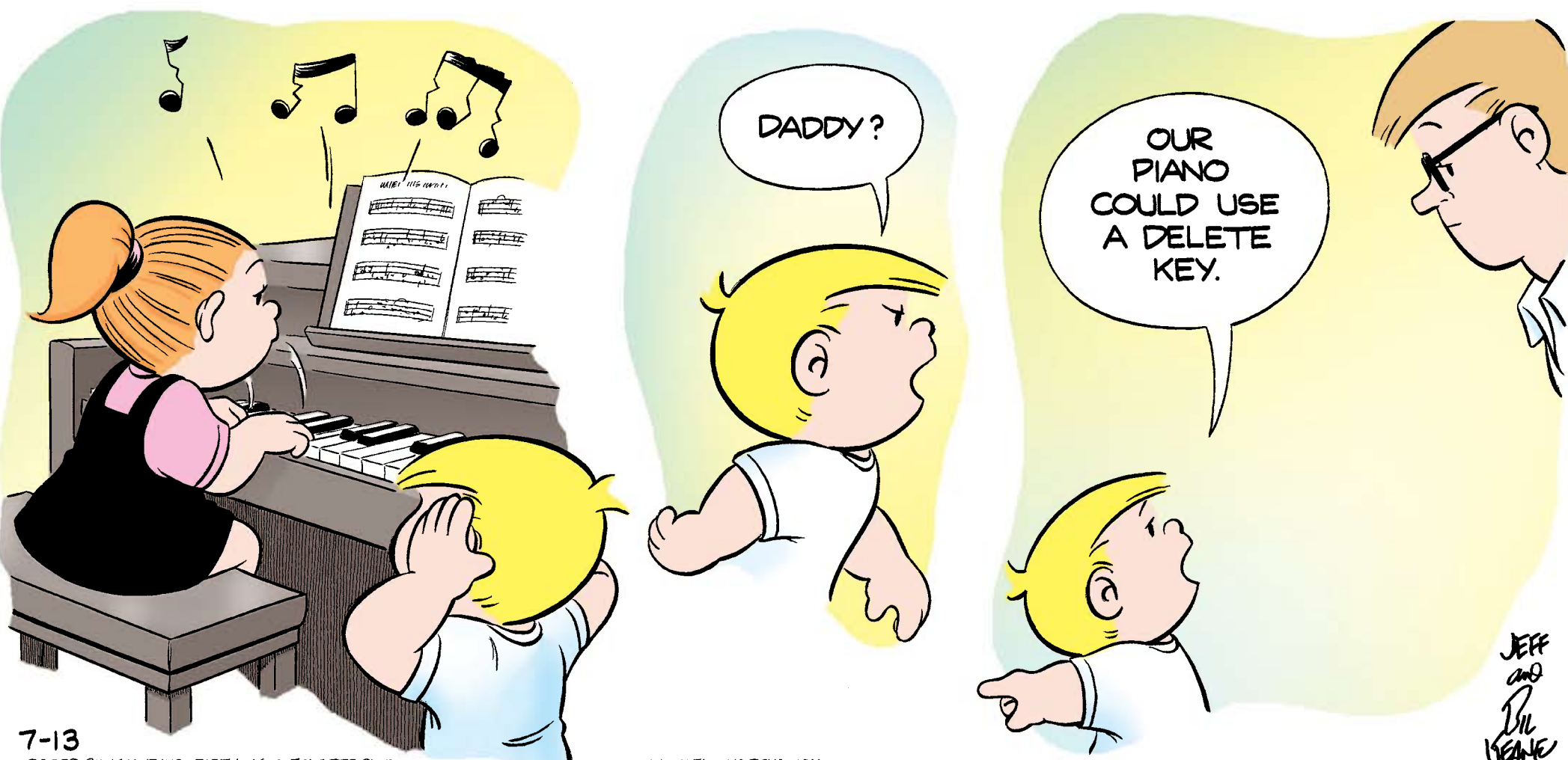
(c) 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.

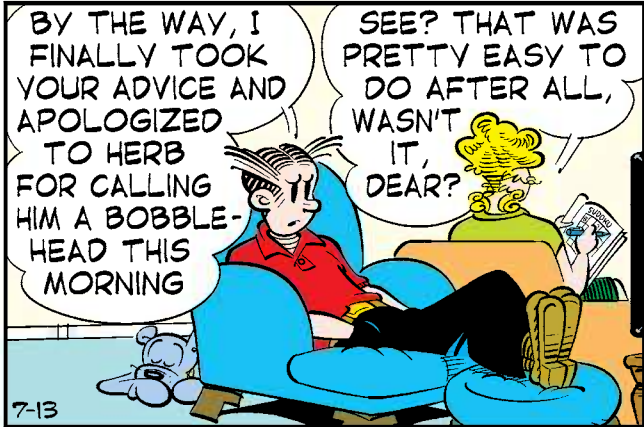
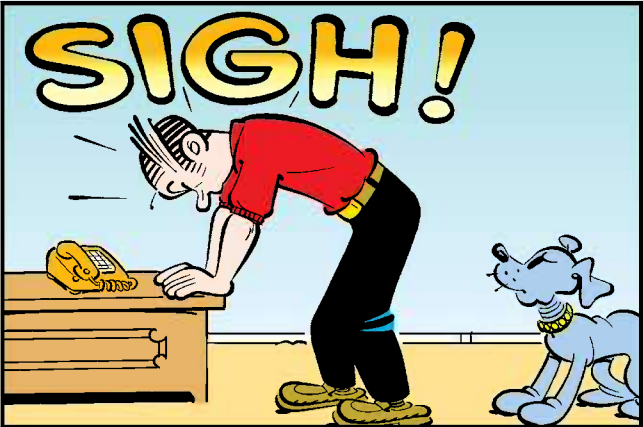
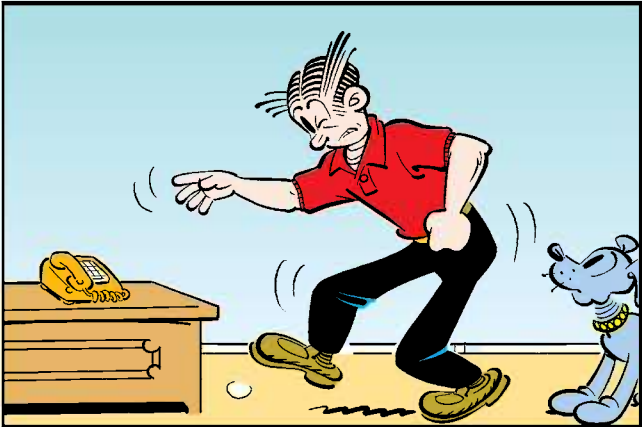
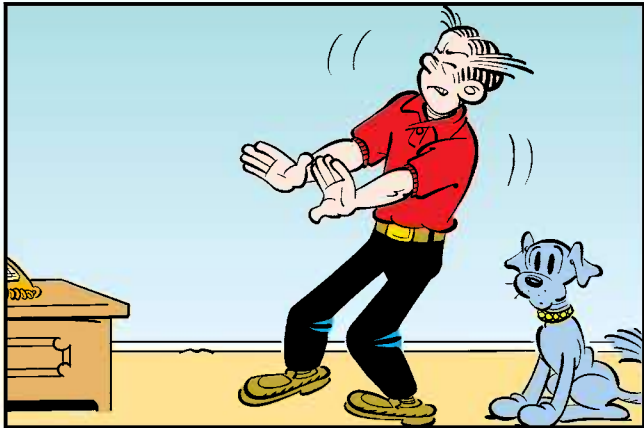
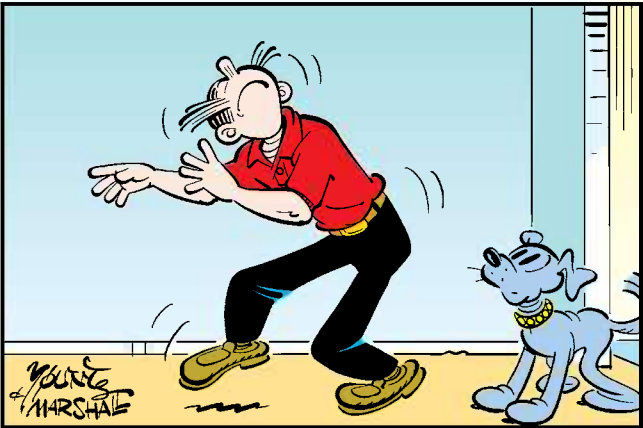
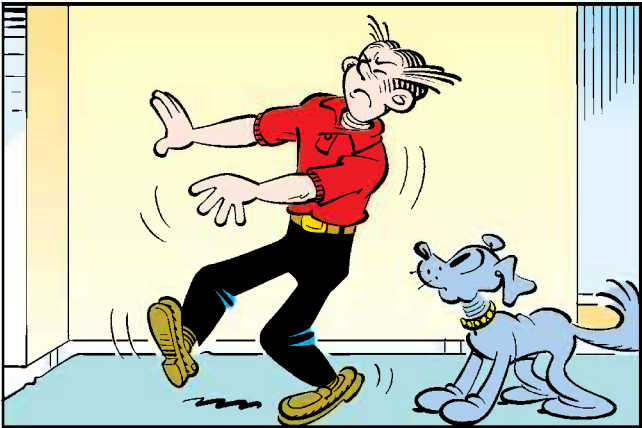
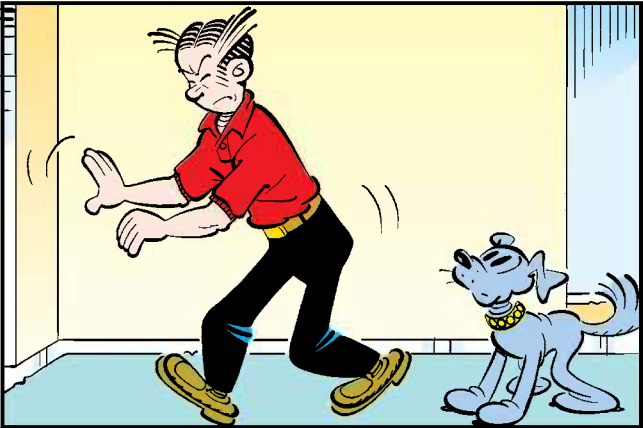
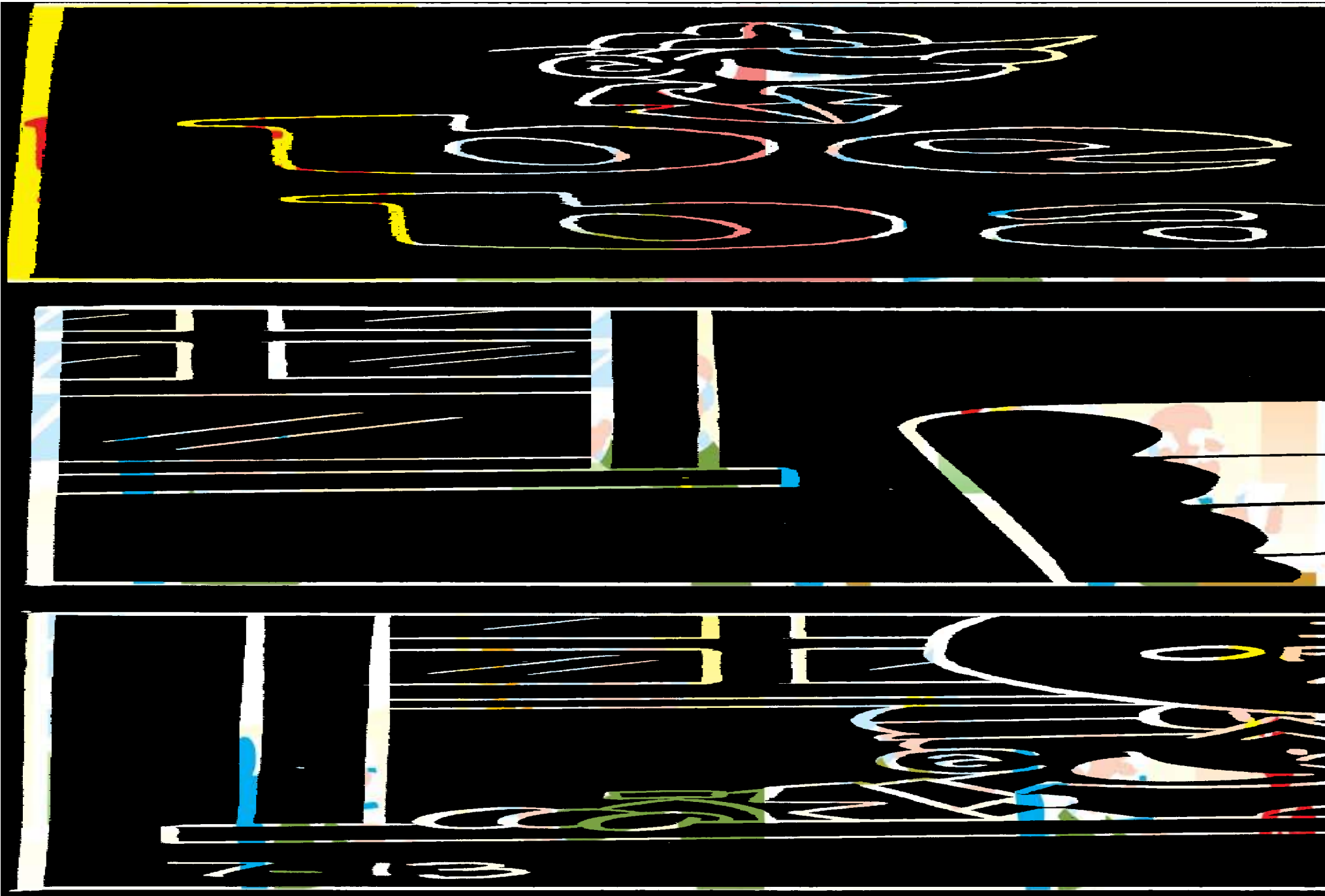
Bob Weber Jr.'s **Slylock Fox** and COMICS for KIDS

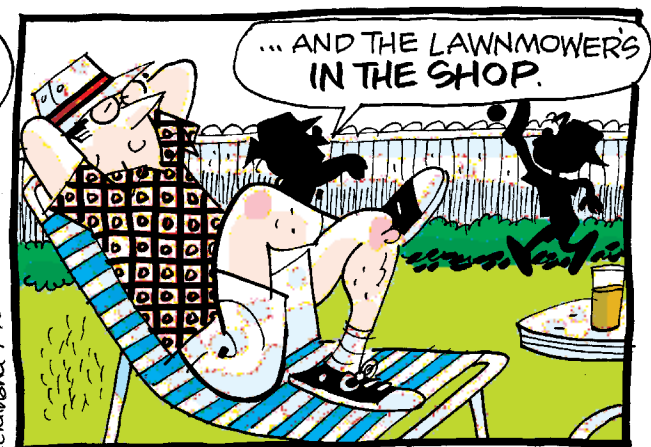
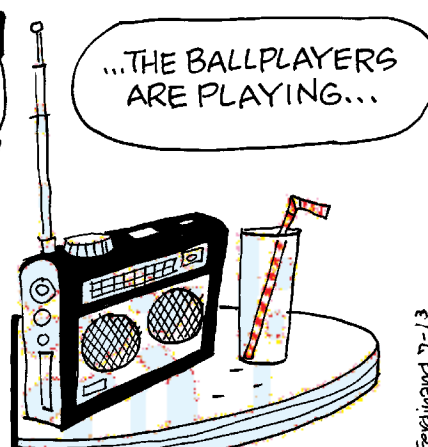
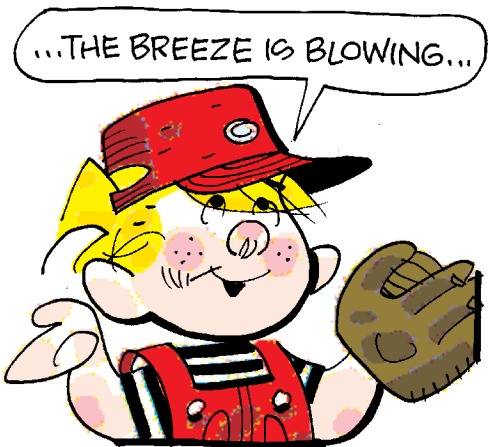
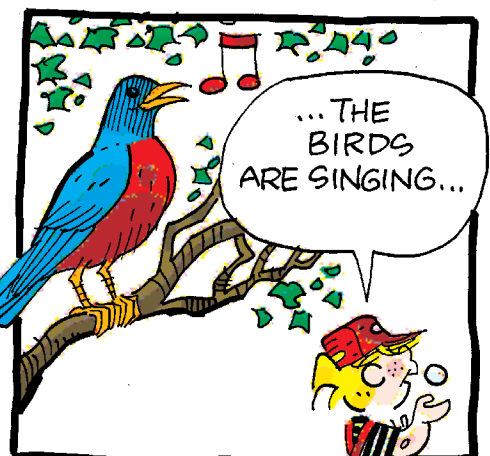
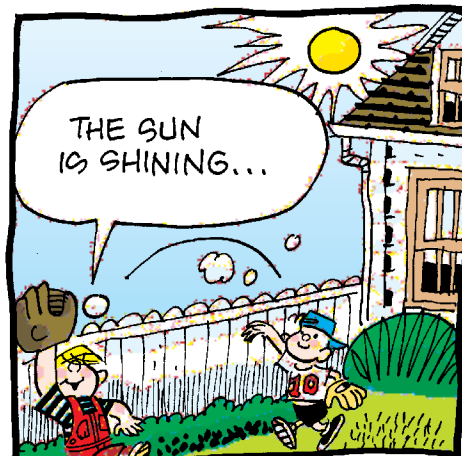
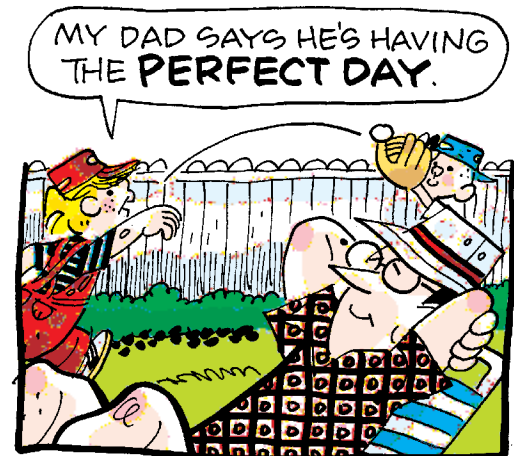
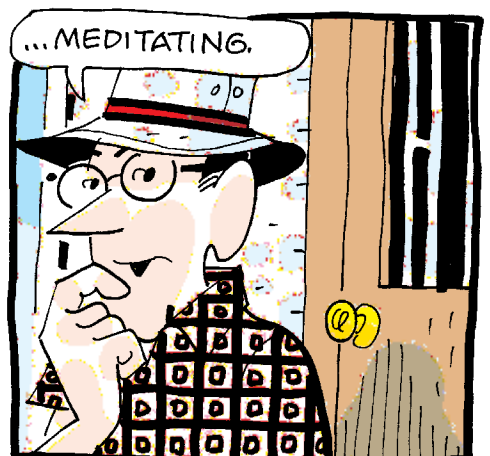
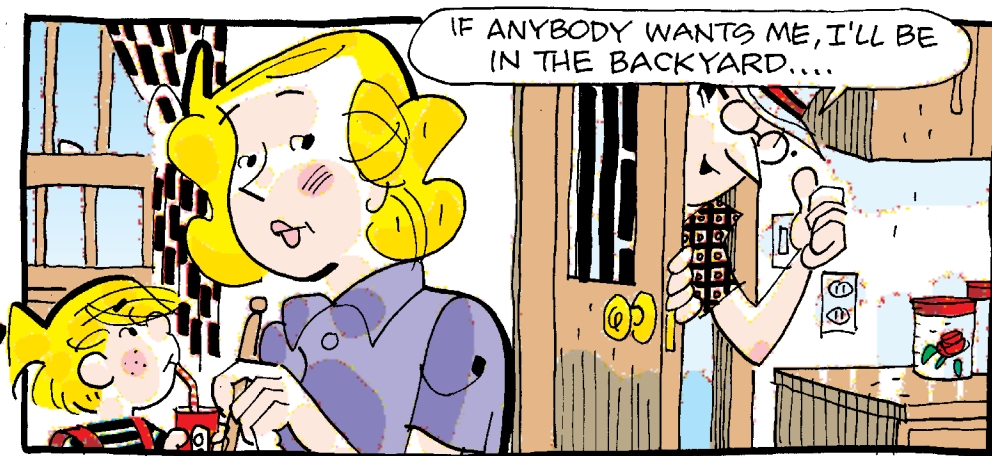
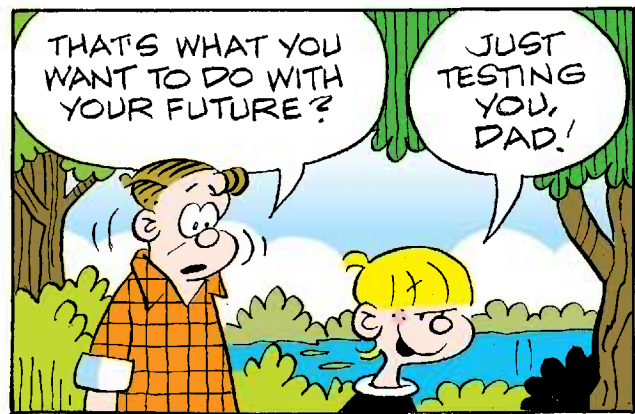
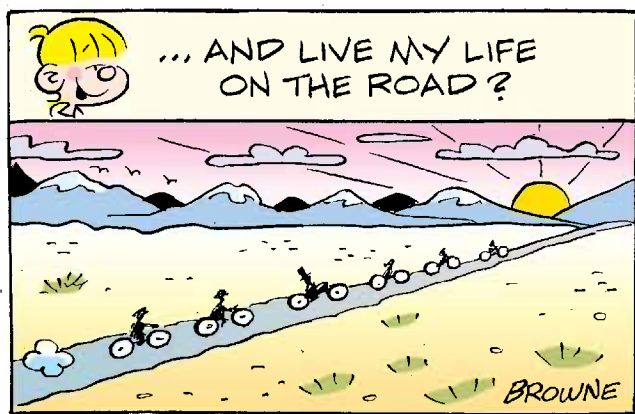
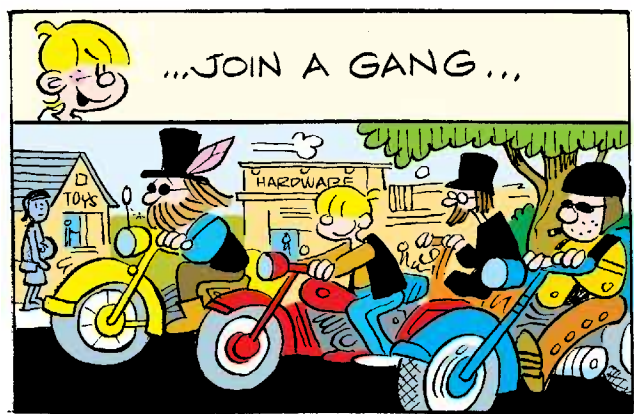
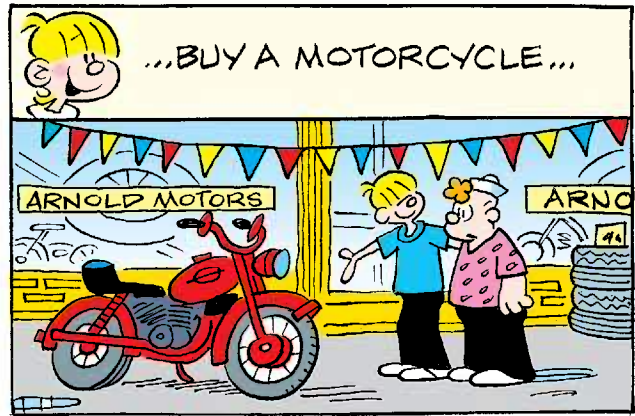
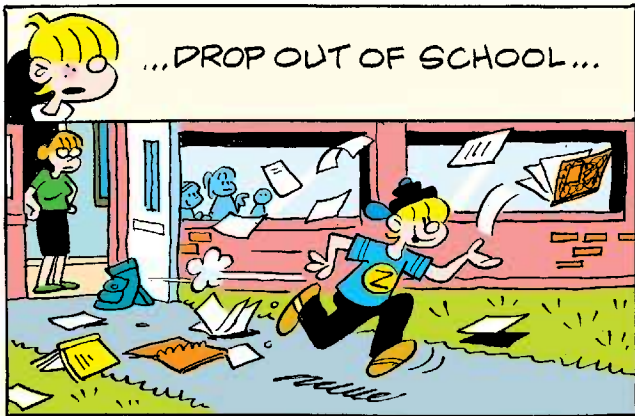
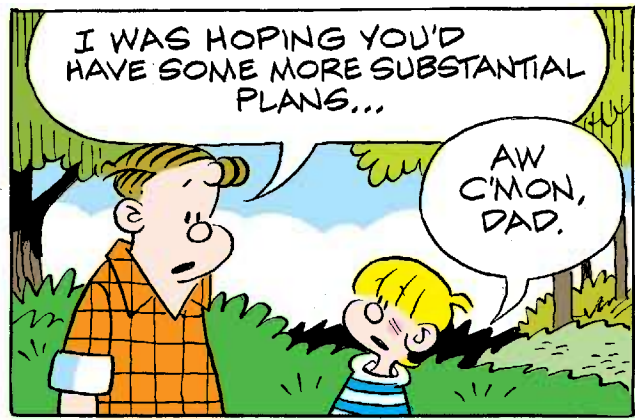
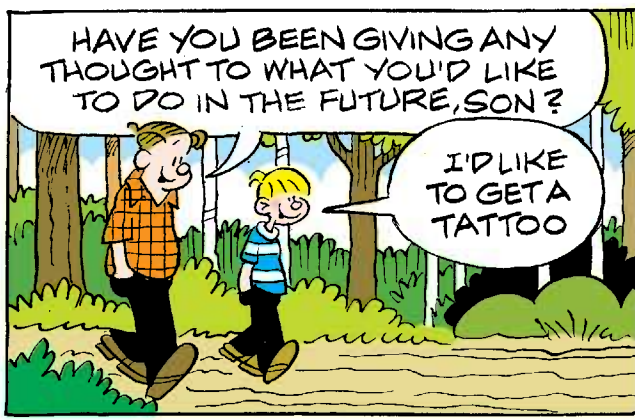
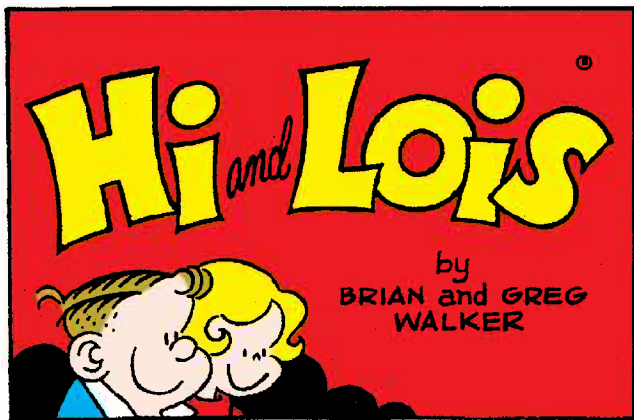


THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By **BIL KEANE**







BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be Sheepish about asking questions and demanding answers. You not only gain needed information, but also respect for your steadfast search for the truth.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A money problem that shows up early in the week is expeditiously resolved by savvy Bovines who know how to turn a momentary financial lapse into a monetary gain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to shed negative energy-draining forces and develop a positive approach to handling current, as well as upcoming, personal and/or professional situations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your urge to do your best on a current task is commendable. But don't let it become all-consuming. Spend some spiritually restorative time with those who love you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This could be a good time for all you Leos and Leonas to take your bows for your recent achievements and then go off to enjoy some fun times with your prides and joys.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A negative response to a well-intentioned suggestion could communicate a sense of distrust you might later find hard to refute. Think carefully before reacting.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your loving attention comforts a family member who is feeling a bit out of sorts. But be careful to prioritize your time so you don't neglect your work duties.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your curiosity might be resented by some. But those who know you will support your penchant for never settling for less than the truth. So stay with it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A pesky situation from the past recurs, albeit in an altered form. Deal with it promptly before it can go from merely irksome to decidedly troublesome.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't wait too long to submit your proposals after giving them a last look-over. If necessary, you should be able to defend any portion called into question.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A bid to use your workplace dispute-settling skills in another situation is tempting. But be careful: You might not have all the facts you'll need if you agree to do it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) That sense of self-doubt is so untypical of you, you should have no qualms in shaking it off. Remind yourself of all you've done and can do, and then do it again.

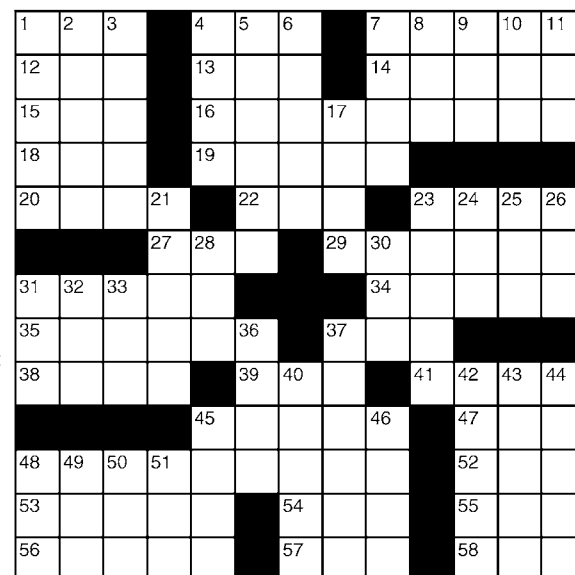
BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to charm others without sacrificing sincerity is what makes people want to follow your leadership.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Crazy
- 4 Hot tub
- 7 Corn
- 12 Rhyming tribute
- 13 Water (Fr.)
- 14 Cause of aggravation
- 15 Pouch
- 16 Bar order
- 18 "I" strain?
- 19 Still-life subject, often
- 20 Slave
- 22 Prior to
- 23 Cambodia neighbor
- 27 Roulette bet
- 29 Frail
- 31 Lacy blouse attachment
- 34 Foe
- 35 Lam
- 37 Pooch
- 38 Small barrels
- 39 Unclose, poetically
- 41 Final notice?
- 45 Laugh like a horse
- 47 Ostrich's kin
- 48 About 5.88 trillion miles
- 52 Roscoe
- 53 Worship
- 54 Actress Farrow
- 55 Past
- 56 Give a leg up
- 57 Crafty



58 Neither mate

DOWN

- 1 He took two tablets
- 2 Saw
- 3 Interior designer's concern
- 4 Narcissist's obsession
- 5 Like Noah's animals
- 6 Foretell
- 7 Jeff's pal
- 8 Priestly garment
- 9 Lemieux
- 10 Wye follower
- 11 Screw up
- 17 Goes like 80
- 21 Pond family
- 23 Jargon
- 24 Candle count
- 25 Resistance measure
- 26 Pigs' digs
- 28 Biblical verb suffix
- 30 Composer Delibes
- 31 LGA
- 32 Hearty brew
- 33 Ginormous
- 36 Stage statuette
- 37 Throw off the track
- 40 Bard's output
- 42 Started
- 43 Adult bug
- 44 Private instructor
- 45 Undo a dele
- 46 Salver
- 48 "CSI" workplace
- 49 "What can - for you?"
- 50 Stickum
- 51 Biz sign abbr.

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top ten

Stinkiest Animals

1. Tasmanian Devil
2. Skunk
3. Hyena
4. Turkey vulture
5. Wolverine
6. Musk Ox
7. Stinkbug
8. Beaver
9. Fox
10. Porcupine

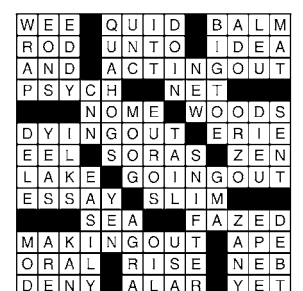
Am NOT!

Are too!

Source: Discovery Channel

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS



United States

Govt shuts down mortgage lender IndyMac

LOS ANGELES (AP)—IndyMac Bank's assets were seized by federal regulators on Friday after the mortgage lender succumbed to the pressures of tighter credit, tumbling home prices and rising foreclosures.

The bank is the largest regulated thrift to fail and the second largest financial institution to close in U.S. history, regulators said.

The Office of Thrift Supervision said it transferred IndyMac's operations to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation because it did not think the lender could meet its depositors' demands.

IndyMac customers with funds in the bank were limited to taking out money via automated teller machines over the weekend, debit card transactions or checks, regulators said.

Other bank services, such as

online banking and phone banking were scheduled to be made available on Monday.

"This institution failed today due to a liquidity crisis," OTS Director John Reich said.

The FDIC estimated that its takeover of IndyMac would cost between \$4 billion and \$8 billion.

IndyMac's collapse is second only to that of Continental Illinois National Bank, which had nearly \$40 billion in assets when it failed in 1984, according to the FDIC.

On Monday, Indy-



AP
Jeff Chen, an IndyMac Bank customer, reacts to a notice that a Pasadena, Calif. branch is temporarily closed, Friday, July 11, 2008.

Mac announced it had stopped accepting new loan submissions and planned to slash 3,800 jobs, or more than half of its workforce - the largest employee cuts in company history.

In the letter to shareholders, IndyMac Chairman and Chief Executive Michael W.

Perry said the drastic measures were made in conjunction with banking regulators to improve the company's financial footing and "meet our mutual goal of keeping IndyMac safe and sound through this crisis period."

The plan was supposed to

generate roughly \$5 billion to \$10 billion per year of new loans backed by government-sponsored mortgage companies, Perry said at the time.

But the run on its deposits ultimately short-circuited the strategy, prompting regulators to take action Friday.

Senate passes mortgage rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—A mortgage rescue to help hundreds of thousands of struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure and get more affordable, safer loans passed the Senate overwhelmingly Friday, but it faces a bumpy road amid continuing turmoil in the housing market.

The 63-5 vote reflected a keen interest by Democrats and Republicans to send election-year help to distressed homeowners with economic issues topping voters' concerns.

The plan lets homeowners buckling under mortgage payments they can't afford keep

their homes and get more affordable mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration. Banks that agreed to take substantial losses on those distressed loans could avoid costly foreclosures and be assured of recovering at least some money.

The new program would let the FHA insure as much as \$300 billion in new mortgages, helping an estimated 400,000 homeowners.

It still faces challenges, however, with the House planning to rewrite key details and the White House threatening a veto without major changes.

The White House Friday renewed its warning that Bush would veto the Senate-passed bill without revisions, citing \$3.9 billion in the measure for buying and rehabilitating foreclosed properties it said would help lenders, not homeowners.

The measure includes a long-sought modernization of the FHA and would create a new regulator and tighter controls on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored mortgage giants. It also would provide \$14.5 billion in housing tax breaks, including a credit of up to \$8,000 for first-time home buyers.

1 killed in Calif. fires; more Guard troops coming

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—One person was found dead inside a burned-out house Friday after a wind-fueled wildfire swept through a rural community in the Sierra Nevada foothills, a rare human casualty among the hundreds of blazes that have tormented the state for weeks.

Investigators believe the person died in the fire in the town of

Concow, but they will conduct an autopsy on the burned body to confirm the cause of death, said Sgt. Steven Pelton, the county's deputy coroner-sheriff.

The town had been evacuated when the blaze approached early Tuesday, "but unfortunately not everyone chose to leave and you cannot force them to," Pelton said. "This appears to be one

of those people."

A complex of blazes in Butte County already has destroyed 50 homes in Concow and forced some 10,000 residents of the nearby town of Paradise to flee.

The Butte County fires have charred more than 76 square miles over the past two weeks and was about 55 percent contained.



ACROSS THE NATION

Software problems bug Apple's launch of new iPhone

NEW YORK (AP)—The launch of Apple Inc.'s much-anticipated new iPhone turned into an information-technology meltdown on Friday, as customers were unable to get their phones working. A spokesman for AT&T, the exclusive carrier for the iPhone in the U.S., said there was a global problem with Apple's iTunes servers that prevented the phones from being fully activated in-store, as had been planned. Instead, employees are telling buyers to go home and perform the last step by connecting their phones to their own computers. However, the iTunes servers were equally hard to reach from home, leaving the phones unusable except for emergency calls. The problem extended to owners of the previous iPhone model.

Second near collision at JFK prompts changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two airborne planes - one landing and the other taking off - came within a half-mile of colliding at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Friday in the second such incident at the airport in a week, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The FAA moved quickly to change takeoff and landing procedures at JFK on perpendicular runways - the kind of runways involved in both incidents. FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said a Delta Flight 123 was arriving at the airport Friday when the pilot decided to abort his landing and execute a "go-around" - a routine procedure often used during heavy congestion. That caused the Delta flight to intersect with the flight path of Comair Flight 1520, a regional jet that was taking off on another runway.

FBI: Agents foil bank robbery, rescue hostage

CHICAGO (AP)—FBI agents following an electronic tracking device hidden in a bag of money stormed a Chicago building, freed a hostage who had been shot and tortured, and arrested six people on charges of extorting \$40,000 in ransom from a suburban Chicago bank, authorities said Friday. According to court papers filed Friday, an employee at the TCF bank in Oak Lawn received calls from her fiancé early Thursday in which he warned that he had been kidnapped and that his captors wanted money. The employee notified her boss, who called police, who then called the FBI, said William C. Monroe, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago office. Federal agents watched as people in two cars collected the bank bag from a drop point and brought it to a building on Chicago's South Side, according to court papers. The agents forced their way in, freed the 34-year-old hostage and arrested his six captors, Monroe said.

Report: 2nd oldest US wildlife refuge in jeopardy

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The nation's second oldest national wildlife refuge, a chain of barrier islands southeast of New Orleans, is in danger of being lost unless the islands are restored, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Friday. The Chandeleur and Breton islands have been battered by hurricanes in the past four years and they took a pounding from Hurricane Katrina, which "reduced the islands by one-half of their pre-storm size," the agency said in a new report. The nation should pour money into restoring the refuge, the report said.



BOATYARD FIRE

AP
Firefighters spray water on the smoldering remains of Washburn & Doughty Associates boatyard Friday, July 11, 2008 in East Boothbay, Maine. The 50,000-square-foot building at Washburn & Doughty Associates was rocked by a series of explosions as flames ripped through the facility. One firefighter was treated at the scene for heat exhaustion. Gov. John Baldacci put the property damage at \$30 million. The boatyard turned out commercial fishing boats, tugs, barges and ferries on the Maine coast.

Pakistani religious school releases Ga. teens

ATLANTA (AP)—Two American-born teens forced by their father to attend a religious school in Pakistan for nearly four years have returned home to Atlanta after a documentary filmmaker pushed for their release.

Noor and Mahboob Khan, now 17 and 16, arrived in Atlanta late Thursday from Jamia Binoria, a prominent madrassa in Karachi. The boys are featured in a new documentary "Karachi Kids" by filmmaker Imran Raza, set

to be released next week.

The boys' father, Fazal Khan, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution he sent them to the madrassa because he wanted them exposed to Islam. He said he had tried to bring his sons home but the boys couldn't get exit visas.

"I sent a ticket. But I couldn't get the paperwork," he told the Journal-Constitution on Wednesday. "I'm responsible for my children."

A woman who identified herself as the boys' sister an-

swered the phone at the family's Norcross home Friday afternoon. She said her father and brothers weren't home and declined to comment further to The Associated Press.

Raza had been working to get the boys home when U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, a Republican from Texas, got involved. In a July 4 visit to Pakistan, he asked President Pervez Musharraf to release the Khan brothers.

The teens were sent home just a few days later.

Asia

Al-Qaida tape warns of Afghan attacks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—An Internet audiotape purported to be from an al-Qaida commander who escaped from a U.S.-run prison in Afghanistan warns of increased attacks against international forces in the violence-plagued nation.

The message allegedly from Abu Yahia al-Libi, who escaped from Afghanistan's Bagram prison in 2005, appeared Friday. Its authenticity could not be verified, but

it was posted on an Islamic militant Web site that carries militant statements.

Al-Libi said he also had a message to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. In the seven-minute recording, he assures bin Laden that insurgents in Afghanistan have gotten stronger, calling them a "shining star in this dark age and a luminous moon in its dark sky."

The militants in Afghanistan "are going through continuous

triumphs ... and are in a better shape compared with what they had been before," he said.

He said militants are "determined to turn the upcoming winter to hell for the infidels."

Afghan insurgents have been growing in strength, posing an increasing challenge to international forces trying to bolster the government. Militants killed more U.S. and NATO troops there in June than in Iraq for the second straight month.

Gunmen kill 4 on Sri Lanka bus

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Suspected rebel gunmen ambushed a crowded passenger bus Friday as it traveled down a small rural road in southern Sri Lanka, killing a 9-year-old boy and three women, the military said.

The attack came amid a sharp spike in fighting in the war between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in the north-

ern jungles, and underscored the rebels' continued ability to strike deep inside government-controlled territory.

The military said, meanwhile, it seized two rebel-held villages—Naddankandal and Navvi—in northern Vavuniya district Friday. It did not give casualty details.

A group of gunmen hiding by the side of the road near

the southern village of But-tala raked the passing civilian bus with gunfire, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara. The bus driver sped through the ambush, only stopping when he reached safety, Nanayakkara said.

He blamed the rebels for the attack, which he said killed a boy and three women and wounded 25 others.

Pakistan: Mortar fire wounds 6 security forces

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Mortar shells fired from Afghanistan wounded six Pakistani security forces along the border, and Pakistan has lodged a "strong protest" with NATO, the army's top spokesman said Friday.

The six mortars were fired late Thursday and fell close to a military post in the town of Angore Adda in the South Waziristan tribal region, Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said. Pakistani forces immediately returned fire, and "casualties

were reported on the other side," he said.

"This was mortar fire from the Afghan side," Abbas said. "Whether it was foreign forces or Afghan forces it's yet to be determined."

Asked if militants across the border could have been behind the firing, Abbas said he did not want to speculate. U.S. military officials in Afghanistan did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The clash comes about a month after another border inci-

dent, in which Pakistan said 11 of its soldiers died when U.S. aircraft bombed their post in the Mohmand area.

U.S. officials have said coalition aircraft dropped bombs during a clash with militants. Though they expressed regret over the incident, they said the action was justified.

Afghan and Pakistani troops also have skirmished repeatedly on the long, poorly demarcated border, despite urgings from U.S. officials that they improve their coordination.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cambodia's ex-king denounces Thai claims to temple

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia's former king dismissed any Thai claim to an 11th century temple on the border as baseless, weighing in on a dispute that has soured relations between the neighbors and fueled anti-government protests in Thailand. Preah Vihear temple was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site this week, reopening a long-standing disagreement between Phnom Penh and Bangkok over which country owns the land that surrounds it. Former King Norodom Sihanouk said in a handwritten note posted on his Web site Friday that any Thai claims to the temple were "absolutely false."

Tourist's killing clouds SKorean appeal to North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist Friday at a resort in North Korea, prompting the South to suspend a high-profile tourism program just as the president was seeking to repair strained ties with his communist neighbor. The death of the 53-year-old woman, who the North said had ventured into a restricted military area during a pre-dawn stroll at a beach, followed a series of hostile North Korean moves against South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. Since Lee assumed office in February with a tougher line on dealing with the North, the Pyongyang regime has expelled South Korean officials from joint economic projects, labeled Lee a "traitor" and warned of renewed fighting between the Koreans.

India prime minister to seek confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government is expected to call a parliamentary confidence vote later this month that will determine its fate and the future of a controversial nuclear deal with the United States, a party official said Friday. Singh met with his coalition partners on Friday to assess their strength ahead of the vote, following a withdrawal of support by key communist allies. "I have no doubt that we shall prove our majority," the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi saying at the meeting. India's Cabinet was meeting later Friday to set a date for the confidence vote.

N.Korea's nuke verification talks progress

BEIJING (AP)—Negotiators at international talks aimed at disarming North Korea's nuclear program struggled Saturday to reach agreement on ways to verify the communist nation's declaration of its atomic materials. Top U.S. envoy Christopher Hill said a working group was hammering out the specifics of a verification protocol. "We're not asking for anything unusual. We're asking for things that are done all over the world. We want a basically standard kind of package on how you verify this type of nuclear program," he said Saturday. Once a procedure is established, Hill has said he expects the verification process could take weeks or even months.

World

Sudan president expected to face war crime charges

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The prosecutor of the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal will seek an arrest warrant Monday charging Sudan's president with crimes against humanity and genocide in Dar-

fur, a move U.N. diplomats warned could bring a backlash from Sudan's government.

U.N. officials and diplomats said the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court would seek an indictment

charging Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with orchestrating violence in Darfur that has left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

Sudan's government reacted swiftly and angrily.

"If you indict our head of state, the symbol of our country, the symbol of our dignity, then the sky's the limit for our reactions," Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamed told The Associated Press on Friday.

"We condemn it in the strongest of terms. It will have far-reaching, bad implications for the entire country."

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya, whose nation is an ally of Sudan, expressed concern that bringing charges against al-Bashir could jeopardize peace talks and put peacekeepers and humanitarian aid workers in Darfur at greater risk.

"It's one of the implications we have to consider," he said.

South Africa's U.N. Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo also cautioned that Darfur's embattled people could be left even less secure. "The debate about the balance between justice, peace and development is a very difficult one," he said.

Venezuela's Chavez mends Colombia ties

PARAGUANA, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Colombia's Alvaro Uribe mended relations Friday after months of sniping that threatened trade and unleashed a diplomatic crisis between Latin America's top U.S. opponent and closest U.S. ally.

Chavez, who just months ago called reconciliation impossible, said the talks allowed the two to "completely turn the page after the storm that passed."

"From today on begins a new era," Chavez said after the talks. "We're destined to be together."

The two have repeatedly clashed over their stances toward Colombia's leftist rebels, but Uribe said "we're brothers" and gave Chavez a book about South American independence hero Simon Bolivar.

It was their first one-on-one meeting since August.

Analysts say the two are setting aside their on-and-off feud because each benefits politically from normalized relations.



AP
In this photo released by United Nations Mission in Sudan Friday, July 4, 2008, Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers redeploy under joint command with Sudan's army south of the Abyei area, in line with the "road map" agreement to resolve the Abyei crisis, in Man-yang, Sudan Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

AP: 'Lob bombs' biggest worry for US in Baghdad

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq (AP)—U.S. forces may be close to unlocking the mystery of who is behind a deadly innovation in Iraqi insurgents' weapons, a "lob bomb" now being used in Baghdad to target U.S. and Iraqi combat outposts, a senior American general said Friday in an Associated Press interview.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, called the weapon "the greatest threat right now that we face," and he likened the shadowy group behind it to the American military's elite Delta Force.

The weapon is particularly

worrying because it is designed to cause catastrophic damage and cannot be stopped once it has been launched, Hammond, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said in an interview in his office at this U.S. military headquarters compound just west of the capital.

U.S. forces detained a man on Thursday who Hammond said could provide valuable insights into the group behind the bombmaking. "We think we have defined the network," he said. He would not elaborate, although other American officers said in interviews that the group is Shiite and may have links to Iran.

Russia, China thumb down UN sanctions vs Zimbabwe

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and China vetoed U.S.-proposed sanctions on Zimbabwe's leaders Friday, the global community's latest attempt to take action against an authoritarian regime widely criticized for a violent and one-sided presidential election.

Western powers mustered nine votes, the minimum needed to gain approval in the 15-nation council. But the resolution pushed by the Bush administration failed because of the action by two of the five veto-wielding permanent members.

The other three nations with veto power - the U.S., Britain

and France - argued that sanctions were needed to respond to the government-backed violence and intimidation against opponents of President Robert Mugabe during Zimbabwe's first round presidential vote in March and runoff in late June.

Mugabe's government has denied responsibility for the bloodshed surrounding the vote, which he won in the runoff after his sole rival - opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai - dropped out because of attacks on his followers. Tsvangirai's party reported Friday that at least 113 of its members were killed in political violence since March.

Focus

Nuclear revival rekindles waste concerns

By ANGELA CHARLTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEAUMONT-HAGUE, France (AP)—Thousands of canisters of highly radioactive waste from the world's most nuclear-energized nation lie, silent and deadly, beneath this jutting tip of Normandy. Above ground, cows graze and Atlantic waves crash into heather-covered hills.

The spent fuel, vitrified into blocks of black glass that will remain dangerous for thousands of years, is in "interim storage." Like nearly all the world's nuclear waste, it is still waiting for the long-term disposal solution that has eluded scientists and governments in the six decades since the atomic era began.

Industry officials hope renewed worldwide interest in nuclear energy will break a long, awkward silence surrounding nuclear waste. They want to revive momentum for scientific and political breakthroughs on waste that stalled after the accidents at Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1986, which raised worldwide fears about radioactivity's risks to human and planetary health.

So far, though, recent talk of a nuclear renaissance has focused on the "front end," or reactor construction. Engineers are designing the next generation of reactors to be safer than today's—and they're being billed as a solution to global warming. Nuclear reactors do not emit carbon dioxide, blamed for heating the planet.

Few people have been talking about the "back end," industry-speak for the hundreds of thousands of tons of waste that nuclear plants produce each year, and the lucrative, secretive business of storing it away.

Waste "is the main problem with this so-called nuclear rebirth," said Mycle Schneider, an independent expert who co-authored a recent study for the European Parliament casting doubt on a global nuclear resurgence. He says government efforts to revive nuclear energy will stall without a "miracle" solution to waste disposal.

Workers at this waste treatment and storage site on France's Cherbourg peninsula, run by industry giant Areva, don't see a problem.

Though much of the technology here dates from the 1970s and 1980s, they point to a strong safety record and the 26,000 environmental tests conducted every year as evidence that the public has nothing to fear from their activity.

The tests routinely find crabs, cows and humans living nearby to be healthy. One longtime plant employee gestured toward her pregnant abdomen, hold-



The nuclear power station of Gundremmingen, southern Germany, pictured on Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

AP

ing her third child, as proof that there's nothing to worry about. Plant officials say strict security measures, tightened since the Sept. 11 attacks, rule out terrorism risks.

Greenpeace questions state-run Areva's safety figures, and accuses the government of playing down accidents and soil and water contamination. A group called Meres en Colere, or Angry Mothers, was formed in the region after a 1997 study showed higher than usual local rates of child leukemia, a malady linked to radiation exposure.

Now the "pros" are on a new mission to dispel a generation of scares and suspicion, saying nuclear power is less dangerous to humans and the Earth than burning oil or coal. The "antis" say nuclear energy can never offer 100 percent protection from its radioactive ingredients.

The splitting of uranium atoms in a nuclear reactor creates the exceptional heat that drives turbines to provide electricity. The process also creates radioactive isotopes such as cesium-137 and strontium-90 that take about 30 years to lose half their radioactivity. Higher-level leftovers includes plutonium-239, with a half-life of 24,000 years.

Direct exposure to such highly radioactive material, even for a short period, can be fatal. Indirect exposure, through seepage into groundwater, can lead to life-threatening illness for those living nearby and environmental damage.

For now, the best scientific solution for getting rid of the most lethal waste is to shove it

deep underground.

Yet no country has built a deep geological repository. Governments meet protests each time one is proposed. The Yucca Mountain waste site in Nevada was commissioned in 1982 and is still awaiting a license.

Another option is recycling. Countries such as France, Russia and Japan reprocess much nuclear waste into new fuel. That dramatically reduces the volume: Forty years' worth of France's highly radioactive waste is stored under just three floor surfaces, each about the size of a basketball court, at Beaumont-Hague.

Recycling, though, produces

plutonium that could be used in nuclear weapons—so the United States bans it, fearing proliferation.

And not all waste can be reprocessed. The deadliest bits—such as fuel rod casings and other reactor parts as well as concentrated fuel residue containing plutonium and highly enriched uranium—must be sealed and stored away.

That's what lurks 10 feet underground at this Normandy plant: More than 7,000 cylindrical steel canisters, each about the height of a parking meter, stacked and sealed upright in holes beneath the slick floor. Some contain compacted ra-

dioactive metal, the others hold spent fuel that has been vitrified into glass.

Among other ideas once floated for disposing of nuclear waste have been shooting it into space (deemed too risky because of the volatile rocket fuel) or injecting it in the ocean floor (stalled because testing its feasibility is too costly), or shipping all the world's waste to a collective nuclear dump.

The last idea proved too diplomatically delicate. But Greenpeace and Norwegian environmental group Bellona say European nations have for years been illegally shipping radioactive waste to Russia

and leaving it there.

Current research in industry leader France—which relies on nuclear energy for more than 70 percent of its electricity, more than any other country—is focusing on new chemical processes that would shrink nuclear waste and cool it faster.

It will be at least 2040, though, before these might be put to use, scientists estimate. Schneider says scientists are "creating work for themselves" by researching methods that may never be commercially feasible or do much to solve the long-term waste quandary.

The World Nuclear Association, an industry group, disagrees, citing increasing interest in waste research by governments. The managers at the Normandy plant say long-held taboos about the industry are fading.

"We have the best scientific solution for treating waste," deputy director Eric Blanc said, referring to the plant's vitrification process and network of cooling pools. "Others are coming all the time to study it."

Visitors to the plant must wear special uniforms and trek through a maze of security and radioactivity checkpoints.

The plant used to have Webcams and "open house" days for people from nearby communities, but both practices were stopped after 9/11. Now the Defense Ministry regularly monitors the plant, and vets all visitors.

Meanwhile, new reactor clients are lining up.

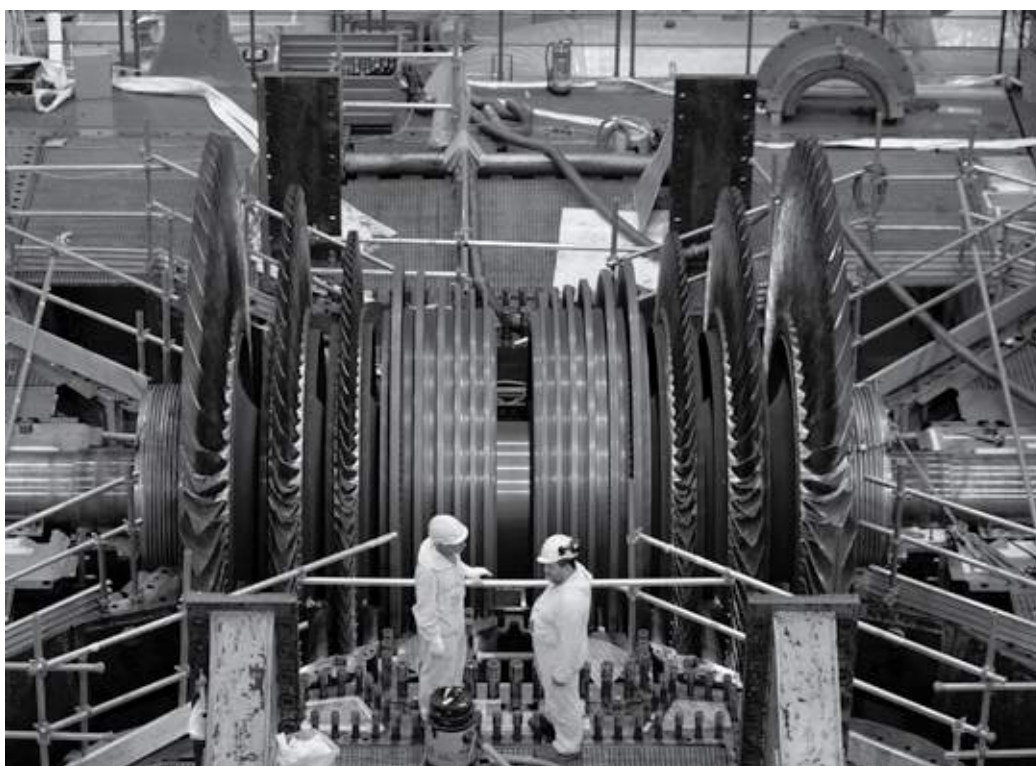
China signed a staggering \$11.7 billion deal last month for two nuclear reactors from Areva. Areva later said the deal included a feasibility study for a waste treatment and recycling facility in China that would cost another \$22 billion.

Areva already makes \$2.2 billion in revenues a year on treating and recycling waste. The plant at Beaumont-Hague takes in 22,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel a year, from France, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Australia. The foreign fuel by law must be returned to its owners once it has been reprocessed into a more stable form that—through lack of alternatives—is buried or held in storage.

The French fuel stays in Normandy indefinitely, while bulkier, lower-level nuclear waste is piling up in dumps worldwide.

Nuclear scientists' dream is a wasteless reactor, and some sketches for the next crop of reactors, the Generation IV, include those that recycle 100 percent of their refuse.

Both nuclear fans and foes agree, however, that it will take a few more human generations for that dream to come true.



Ingo Grosshans stands beside a lower pressure turbine of the nuclear power station in Gundremmingen, southern Germany, pictured on Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

AP

Life & Style

Doug Jones: Not just another pretty face

By RON DICKER

SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

Doug Jones spent five hours a day getting made up, plus two hours getting cleaned off, to play the fish-like Abe Sapien in "Hellboy II: The Golden Army," which opens Friday.

"The makeup trailer was the workplace," Jones says. "The movie I kind of threw in for free."

The 48-year-old Jones, who also plays the Angel of Death and the Chamberlain in the film, puts on bizarre prosthetics the way some of us put on a tie: It's a living. The lanky actor arrived

complain. That was a biggie."

He's played a half-kangaroo half-man (a mangaroo?), a zombie and, most notably, of late, the Silver Surfer in the 2007 "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer." But it was his Abe Sapien in the original "Hellboy" (2004) that helped him transcend the realm of comic-book geekdom. Jones' sensitive portrait of the scaly psychic who works at the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense provided a counterpoint to Hellboy's (Ron Perlman) cigar-chomping brutishness.

"I was flying way under the celebrity radar for about 18

and effects specialists Jones had worked with.

"All of a sudden I didn't have a director sitting across from me, I had a fan boy," Jones recalls.

Del Toro asked for Jones' business card and tucked it in his wallet.

Several years later, del Toro was in "Hellboy" preproduction, inspecting a full-scale model of an Abe Sapien design. One crew member remarked that it looked like Doug Jones. Jones swears that del Toro blurted out, "I know Doug Jones!" and pulled his business card out of the same wallet. Then del Toro hired Jones again to play the

David Hyde Pierce, who refused to take credit in deference to Jones' performance. Jones calls the "Frasier" and Broadway star the best person he knows in the show biz "ego system." Last time, Abe Sapien and pals from the Paranormal Institute had to dispatch reanimated Nazi hell mongers. This time, they try to defend humankind from an underworld prince who has harnessed the power of mythical beasts to shatter an eons-old truce.

You can actually gaze upon

Jones' own countenance in a few upcoming projects. In the apocalyptic "Legion" with Dennis Quaid, he plays an ice cream man -- not a walking Popsicle but a human who serves ice cream.

He also capitalizes on a rare chance to be a leading man in NBC's summer horror anthology "Fear Itself." He's a rancher who mysteriously returns from an absence 60 pounds lighter and "possessed by something."

But usually it isn't long before Jones is summoned for

a severe makeover to inhabit some beast or goblin. Over the years, he has tried to make the most of his time in the makeup chair: He gets to know the artist. He watches funny YouTube bits on his laptop. Most important, it's usually the one chance he gets to rehearse.

His status as the go-to guy for the heavily masqueraded has its roots in mime, he concedes without irony. He practiced the art at Ball State University and belonged to a troupe called Mime Over Matter.

THREE WISE GUYS

Concert etiquette, newspaper clipping, online dating

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE

and DAN ZAK

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Hi, 3WGs:

Why do guys act so stupid at concerts? I have been to two shows in the past 12 days, and in both cases, the Y chromosomes blew it for me.

First, there's the wild flailing of bowed limbs and bad dancing a la Kevin Federline. Then there is the wide-eyed, mouth-agape look you give each other when you recognize the first notes of a song. Teen-age girls invented that look, but you fellas added the double high-five.

Now for the singing at the top of your lungs. Why?! Do you think I paid \$82 a ticket to hear you scream all the lyrics? From now on I'll just download music and try to imagine what it's like to see the band live. I'm done.—JKG

Joe: First, I want to apologize for Dan's and Justin's behavior at the concert. I've warned them about the double high-five. Totally lame. But their actions aside, bad fan etiquette is not the territory of guys alone. Rude concert behavior cuts across gender lines. I went to a Yo-Yo Ma concert once and the row of ladies behind me were accompanying him on the miniature cellos they brought with them and screaming "Play some Dvorak! Whooo!" Obviously totally wasted. But back to Dan and Justin: I'm not surprised they were singing along. They've been trying to form the world's oldest boy band for years.

Dan: Excuse me, but Danny and the Rude Awakenings is probably going to be the biggest thing ever once we get a manager. We'll be like New Kids on the Block, but with actual dance moves.

Justin: Oh, please. As if there is such a thing as an inappropriately timed double high-five. Dan and I address that issue on



THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

our first single, "Totally Brah-some."

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

Since you are in the newspaper business, I figure this will be easy. How come you can tear a newspaper fairly evenly from top to bottom, but when you try to tear the paper laterally, it always tears ragged or uneven?—Bob

Joe: I'm trying to figure out why this is an issue for you. Are you working on a papier-mache version of Mount Rushmore? Or is tearing the paper apart just the way you express displeasure with this column?

Dan: It has to do with wind shear. Just trust us.

Justin: You two are worthless. It turns out there's an expert on this very question right in our building. We talked to Hugh Price, The Washington Post's director of operations planning and he explained that newspaper has a grain similar to a board of wood. That grain is created in the paper-making process: As the wet paper fibers are squeezed and dried, they tend to align in the same direction that the paper machine runs. The result is that when you tear with the grain (up and down) the paper will tear in a relatively

straight line whereas when you go across the grain you end up with a jagged tear.

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

My boyfriend and I met our freshman year of college at a party and have been together for nearly four years. With the growing number of online dating sites, I wonder: If we each set up an account, what is the likelihood that we would be matched?—Secretly Want to be Featured in an eHarmony Commercial

Justin: Since the compatibility algorithms on those sites run from overly sophisticated to overly random, it's probably not likely. Besides, you don't want to jump right into something like eHarmony; that's not how it's properly done. The first step is to spend a disappointing stretch of time scouring free online personals. I suggest you each practice by writing creepy missed-connections posts for Craigslist and move on to a pay service only when you can regularly pick each other out of that digital freak fest.

Joe: I think "digital freak fest" is a little strong, Justin. I met one of my current wives through an online dating site, and she is totally normal.



AP

Actor Doug Jones poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 28, 2008.

in Los Angeles from his native Indiana in 1985 with hopes of being the goofy neighbor in sitcoms. He became an otherworldly thing instead. Over and over.

A three-year stint doing "Mac Tonight" McDonald's spots as the sunglass-wearing piano player with a crescent moon for a head created what Jones called a "ripple effect" in the creature-effects industry. Jones says he acquired a reputation as a lanky dude who "moved well in cumbersome costumes and didn't

years," Jones says in a phone interview. "And all of a sudden 'Hellboy' comes along and kind of put me as a speck there. Who's that bluefish guy?"

His fish tale would not be complete without "Hellboy" writer-director Guillermo del Toro. When Jones played one of the super-sized cockroaches in del Toro's 1996 "Mimic," he sat across from the Mexican director at lunch one day. Del Toro peppered him with questions about makeup artists

Faun in the Spanish-language "Pan's Labyrinth" and the actor did all the U.S. press for the Oscar-nominated film, further raising his profile.

"He has been able to make monsters and freaks of nature into leading men with all the human issues that the audience can relate to," Jones says of del Toro. "For that I will be eternally grateful."

For "Hellboy II," Universal allowed Jones to also lend his own voice, previously done by

Owners of lost diamond ring are identified

By THERESA VARGAS

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WASHINGTON—The owners of a diamond ring that was found in a Tysons Corner, Va., parking garage have been identified, officials at the company that originally sold the ring said Friday.

Jonathan Mervis, of Mervis Diamond Center, said the owners were among a half dozen people who called saying the 3.2 carat diamond ring could be theirs after news reports last week detailed its discovery.

Linda and Keith Stetzer, of Fairfax, Va., were in the garage two weeks ago when Keith Stetzer flicked a cigarette on the ground and noticed the ring up against a concrete barrier. The couple decided they would try to find its owner and enlisted the help of Mervis after the company's name was found imprinted on the inside of the ring.

On Thursday, Mervis said, the rightful owners were able to provide a certificate confirming that they had bought the ring in 2000. It is valued

at \$40,000.

"Every piece of evidence lined up," Mervis said. "It's a 100 percent" match.

The couple had been out of town and were told about the news reports about the discovery, Mervis said. When the ring was finally returned to them on Thursday, he said, only the husband showed. His wife, who remained out of town, was told over the telephone.

"He said she was just sobbing on the other end of the phone," Mervis said.



AP
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., answers a question while campaigning at the Stivers School for the Arts Friday, July 11, 2008 in Dayton, Ohio.

Bernie Mac makes off-color joke at Obama event

CHICAGO (AP) -- Comedian Bernie Mac endured some heckling and a campaign rebuke during a surprise appearance Friday night at a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Toward the end of a 10-minute standup routine at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago, the 50-year-old star of "The Bernie Mac Show" joked about menopause, sexual infidelity and promiscuity, and used occasional crude language.

"My little nephew came to me and he said, 'Uncle, what's the difference between a hypothetical question and a realistic question?'" Mac said. "I said, I don't know, but I said, 'Go upstairs and

ask your mother if she'd make love to the mailman for \$50,000.'"

As the joke continued, the punchline evoked an angry response from at least one person in the audience, who said it was offensive to women.

"It's not funny. Let's get Barack on," a man shouted from the crowd, which paid \$2,300 each to support the Illinois senator.

About 15 minutes later, Obama tried to smooth things over with a joke of his own.

"We can't afford to be divided by race. We can't afford to be divided by region or by class and we can't afford to be divided by gender, which by the way, that means, Bernie, you've got to

clean up your act next time," Obama said. "This is a family affair. By the way, I'm just messing with you, man."

The incident drew response from Obama's campaign, which criticized Mac for his choice of material.

"Sen. Obama told Bernie Mac that he doesn't condone these statements and believes what was said was inappropriate," spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement after the event.

Mac, a Chicago native, said he's a longtime Obama supporter and called the presumptive Democratic nominee a "man's man" while offering him advice for the duration of the campaign trail.

"People like rumors. They're going

to say things like you was at the club with Lil' Kim, and you and Kanye West got into a fist fight," he said. "You can't get upset. You've got to keep hope alive."

Mac's appearance was Obama's first celebrity event of the evening. Later at a Lincoln Park nightclub, Obama spoke to a raucous crowd of music fans, who paid up to \$500 per person to see a performance by Wilco lead singer Jeff Tweedy, and two other band members.

"Before these guys go, I want them to know that I had heard a rumor that they had suggested that I had nothing by them on my iPod," Obama said. "That is not true. I love Wilco."

MOVIE REVIEW

'Dark Knight' nearly lives up to the hype

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP MOVIE CRITIC

It's difficult to separate the movie from its mystique.

Even under ordinary circumstances, "The Dark Knight" would have been one of the most hotly awaited movies of the summer blockbuster season. The loss of Heath Ledger to an accidental prescription-drug overdose in January has amplified the buzz around the film—and his crazed performance as the Joker—to extraordinary levels.

Nothing could possibly satisfy that kind of expectation. "The Dark Knight" comes pretty close.

Christopher Nolan's film is indeed an epic that will leave you staggering from the theater, stunned by its scope and complexity. It's also, thankfully, a vast improvement over his self-serious origin story, 2005's "Batman Begins."

As director and co-writer with his brother, Jonathan (David S. Goyer shares a story credit), Nolan has found a way to mix in some fun with his philosophizing. Ambitious, explosive set pieces share screen time with meaty debates about good vs. evil and the nature of—and need for—a hero.

Batman (Christian Bale) has been that guy. Now, he's not so sure he should be anymore. He's protected Gotham fiercely (and with some fierce toys), but the new district attorney, Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), seems to be putting a dent in organized crime with help from Lt. Gordon (Gary Oldman). Perhaps Batman should return to his "normal" life as billionaire Bruce Wayne and leave the clean-up work to the professionals. Maybe he can even rekindle his romance with old flame Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal, taking over more than capably for Katie Holmes, although she doesn't get much to do, either).

And so "The Dark Knight" presents an existential crisis—what comic-book hero doesn't suffer these?—but does so in a totally different way from its predecessor. Whereas "Batman Begins" felt too solemn and introspective, this installment might actually be too fast. Like the Caped Crusader himself, speeding through the streets of Gotham City on his tricked-out Bat-Pod motorcycle, Nolan moves breathlessly from one scene to the next.

Trouble is, he's got such great vision and is so adept at creating a compelling mood, it makes you wish he'd

held some moments for a beat or two longer, just to savor them—and to let us do the same. A couple of scenes in Bruce's stark, crisply lit Bat-bunker come to mind, as does Batman's nighttime flight over a glittering Hong Kong. (Wally Pfister, a longtime Nolan collaborator who also shot "Batman Begins" and "Memento," returns as cinematographer. Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard once again teamed up to compose the huge, sweeping score.)

Nolan was wise enough, however, to give Ledger plenty of room to shine—albeit in the actor's indelibly perverse, twisted way. There's nothing cartoony about his Joker. Ledger wrested the role from previous performers Cesar Romero and Jack Nicholson and reinvented it completely.

Yes, he's funny, wringing laughs from both clever one-liners and maniacally grand schemes. He can be playful, finding unexpected avenues into the character: "You complete me," he purrs to Batman, mockingly borrowing Tom Cruise's classic line from "Jerry Maguire" and dashing all possibilities for the Caped One's imminent retirement.

But because there's no logic behind his mayhem, he's also truly terrifying. The terror he inflicts on Gotham is meticulously planned (the opening bank heist, shot with IMAX cameras, is a marvel of timing) and yet his sole inspiration is to create chaos, then watch the city squirm and burn.

That his attacks grow larger each time, regardless of the collateral damage, makes him so genuinely disturbing. Ledger seems to have understood that, and brings an appropriate—and riveting—unpredictability to the role. It's also a neat touch that his makeup, which looked like a slapdash effort from the start, steadily deteriorates, streaking, cracking and peeling away as the film progresses; it's an outward manifestation of his psychological spiral. Back to Batman, though—because theoretically, it is his movie, right?

Bale seems more assured than ever, now that he has more facets of Batman/Bruce's personality to reveal than he did in the last film. He's consistently proven he's capable of going to dark, scary places for his characters (see: "American Psycho," "Rescue Dawn") and this is no exception.

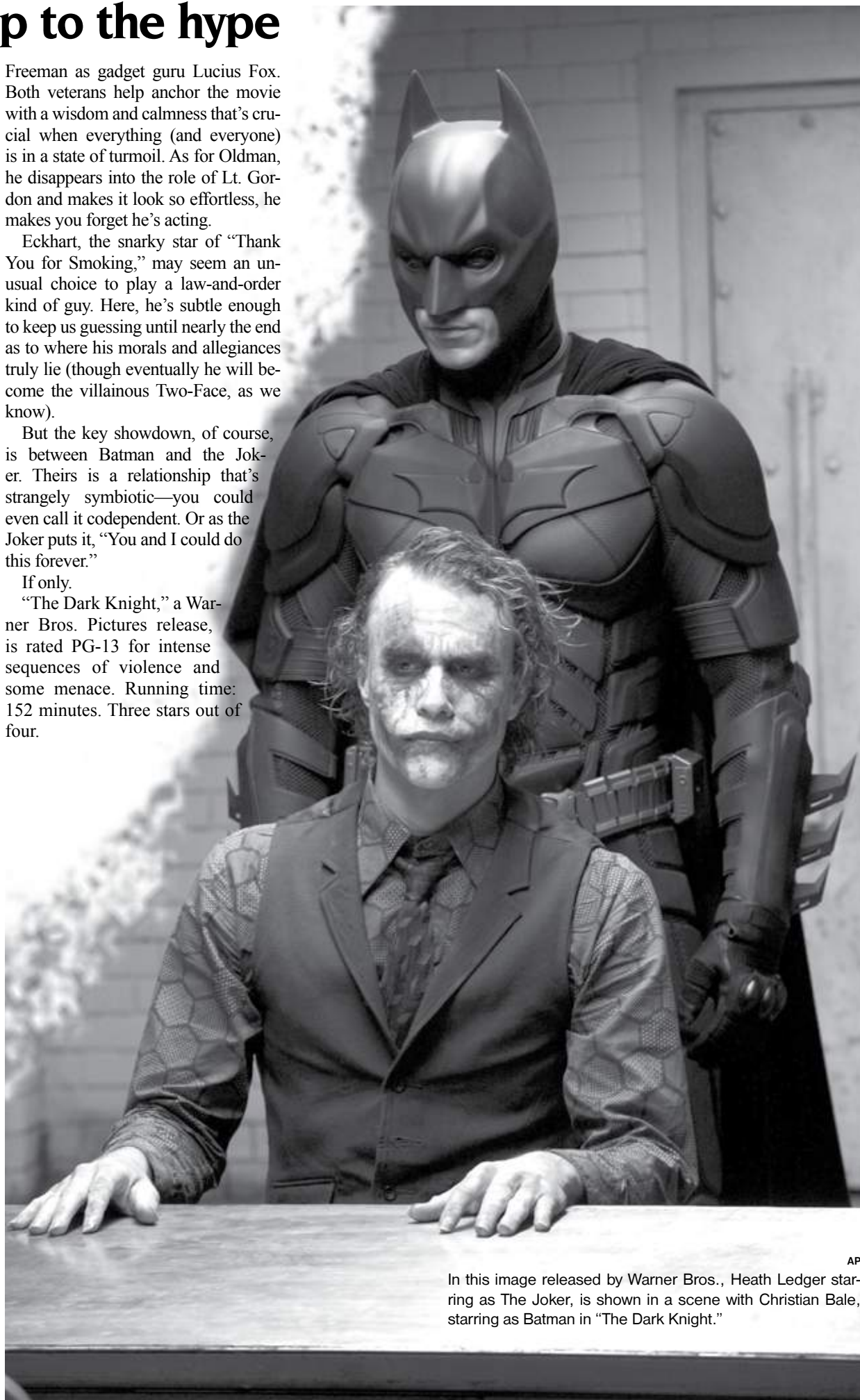
Also returning are Michael Caine as Bruce's butler, Alfred, and Morgan

Freeman as gadget guru Lucius Fox. Both veterans help anchor the movie with a wisdom and calmness that's crucial when everything (and everyone) is in a state of turmoil. As for Oldman, he disappears into the role of Lt. Gordon and makes it look so effortless, he makes you forget he's acting.

Eckhart, the snarky star of "Thank You for Smoking," may seem an unusual choice to play a law-and-order kind of guy. Here, he's subtle enough to keep us guessing until nearly the end as to where his morals and allegiances truly lie (though eventually he will become the villainous Two-Face, as we know).

But the key showdown, of course, is between Batman and the Joker. Theirs is a relationship that's strangely symbiotic—you could even call it codependent. Or as the Joker puts it, "You and I could do this forever."

If only.
"The Dark Knight," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and some menace. Running time: 152 minutes. Three stars out of four.



AP
In this image released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger starring as The Joker, is shown in a scene with Christian Bale, starring as Batman in "The Dark Knight."

Negotiations continue over sex tape

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for Verne Troyer are negotiating with a porn broker and distributor on a settlement to permanently prevent the distribution of a sex tape the actor made with a former girlfriend.

U.S. District Judge Philip S. Gutierrez on Friday granted both sides another week to negotiate before holding a hearing on whether the tape can be sold or released. He also extended a temporary restraining order barring porn distributor SugarDVD from selling or taking orders for the tape, said Tracy Rane, Troyer's attorney.

Edwin McPherson, another of Troyer's attorneys, said the two sides were discussing a permanent injunction that would keep SugarDVD or Blatt from marketing the tape or still images.

"Mr. Troyer is working to prohibit the release of the full tape," Rane said.

The actor sued porn distributor SugarDVD, broker Kevin Blatt and celebrity gossip Web site TMZ for \$20 million last month and sought to have re-



AP
In this June 11, 2008 file photo, actor Verne Troyer poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "The Love Guru" in Los Angeles.

lease of the tape barred.

He is best-known for his role as Mini Me in two of the "Austin Powers" movies.

Court records do not list attorneys for SugarDVD or Blatt.

Troyer had claimed the sex tape was stolen from his home, but TMZ presented a statement from his ex-girlfriend, Ranae

Shrider, saying she took the tape and authorized parts of its release to TMZ.

TMZ aired parts of the tape on its Web site and TV show, prompting Troyer's lawsuit. A statement on SugarDVD's site claimed it was trying to broker a deal for the tape, but that statement has since been removed.

Actors' guild weighs strategy as studios hold firm

By LYNN ELBER
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild weighed bargaining strategies Friday after Hollywood producers warned a souring economy could cause them to reconsider their contract offer.

The guild's national negotiating committee met in a closed-door strategy session and remains "committed to continuing to bargain for a fair contract," SAG said in a statement Friday.

But producers didn't signal a willingness to revisit what they've called their final proposal - unless, perhaps, to reduce it.

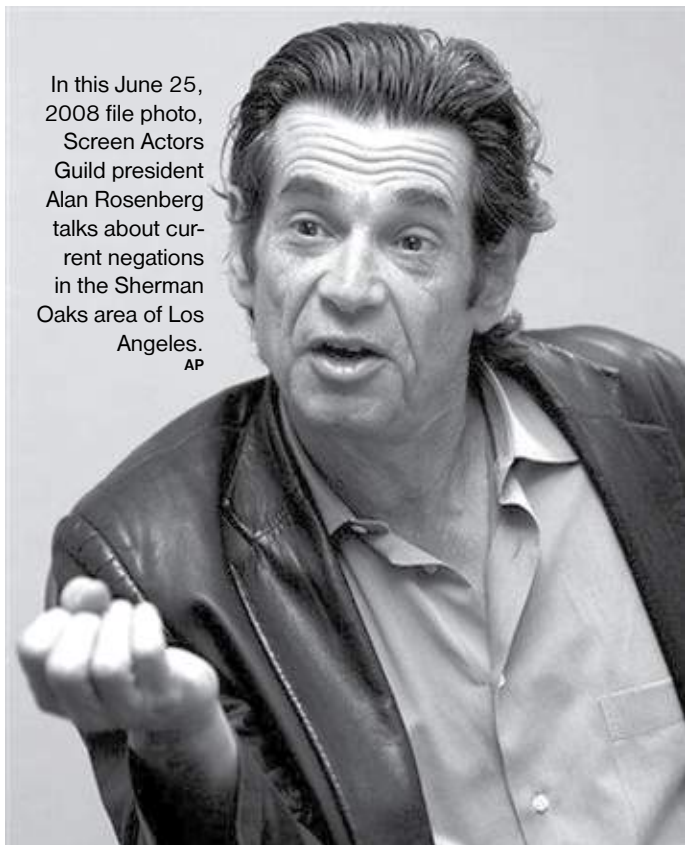
The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on Friday released remarks made at a bargaining session Thursday by Carol Lombardini, the group's executive vice president for business and legal affairs.

"It is no secret that we are in a deteriorating economy," Lombardini said. "Our companies are not immune from the effects of this economic slowdown. It is very possible that, as a result of changing economic conditions, we will have to reevaluate the offer we have on the table."

She also reiterated the studios' intention to drop retroactive pay increases if the deal isn't ratified by Aug. 15. The previous contract expired June 30.

The guild said Friday it had no comment on Lombardini's remarks. A negotiations update would be provided Monday, SAG said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger



AP
In this June 25, 2008 file photo, Screen Actors Guild president Alan Rosenberg talks about current negotiations in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles.

on Friday called resolution of the labor dispute critical.

"The last thing that we want is another strike. And I think that our economy is very vulnerable right now. ... A strike like that would be devastating," he said in Los Angeles.

The AMPTP has said the deal it's offering would provide \$250 million in additional compensation over three years.

Doug Allen, SAG national executive director, has called the estimate "highly inflated," claiming that proposed raises to actors' minimum wages would not benefit the higher-paid actors.

A counterproposal offered by the guild "significantly narrowed the gap" with producers while remaining true to the guild's bargaining priorities, Allen said in a statement Friday.

The largest and most powerful actors union, SAG represents 120,000 actors in movies, TV and other media.

It is seeking greater compensation for DVDs, something neither writers, directors nor a smaller actors union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, could secure. SAG also wants more say for actors asked to endorse products in scripted shows.

Actress Evelyn Keyes dies at 91 in California

By BOB THOMAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Evelyn Keyes, who played Scarlett O'Hara's younger sister SuelLEN in "Gone With the Wind" and counted director John Huston and bandleader Artie Shaw among her famous husbands, has died. She was 91.

The actress died July 4 of uterine cancer at her home in Montecito, near Santa Barbara, producer and close friend Allan Glaser said Friday.

Glaser said the news was withheld because lawyers wanted to wait until the death certificate was filed.

Keyes' personal life often overshadowed her acting career. Besides her often turbulent marriages to Shaw and directors Huston and Charles Vidor, she lived with the flamboyant producer Mike Todd for three years during his preparation and filming of "Around the World in 80 Days." She played a cameo role in the movie and helped on publicity.

Todd sent her to the premiere in Caracas, then called her abruptly from Paris with this message: "Listen, I have to tell you. I've fallen in love with Elizabeth (Taylor)."

"Oh well, nothing lasts forever," she philosophized in 1977. "The good part was that I invested all my money in 'Around the World in 80 Days,' and that set me up for life."

Keyes gave a frank account of her romances and marriages in her 1977 autobiography, "Scarlett O'Hara's Younger Sister." Her role in the 1939 classic led to a contract at Columbia Pictures and stardom.

Among her notable roles: as Robert Montgomery's lover in "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" (1941), the Ruby Keeler role as Al Jolson's wife in "The Jolson Story" (1946), and as Dick Powell's wife in "Mrs. Mike" (1949).

She also starred in B pictures that were later praised by movie critics as prime examples of film noir: "Johnny O'Clock" (1947), "The Killer That Stalked New York" (1950), "The Prowler" (1951), "99 River Street" (1953) and "The Big Combo" (1955).

Keyes' marriages and divorces made her the darling of gossip columns and fan magazines. Her first marriage, to a handsome Englishman and heavy drinker named Barton Bainbridge, ended in headlines when he fatally shot himself during a separation.

Vidor, a handsome Hungarian



AP
This Thursday, Jan. 13, 2000 file photo shows actress Evelyn Keyes during a tribute to legendary director Billy Wilder at the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

who directed her first Columbia film, "The Lady in Question," became romantically involved with Keyes, though both were married at the time. When her husband committed suicide and Vidor's wife, actress Karen Morley, divorced him, Vidor and Keyes married. The marriage ended two years later when she discovered he was unfaithful to her as well.

Husband No. 3 was Huston. She was impressed when they met at a Hollywood dinner party, and more impressed when he took her afterward to his Tarzana horse ranch and made no effort to seduce her.

Their marriage in 1946 led to an adventurous life. Just one of the examples she recalled in 1971 involved Huston returning

home from the 1949 film "We Were Strangers," with a gift from actress Jennifer Jones, a pet chimpanzee.

"The chimp fell in love with John, and he brought it home to live with us in our all-white apartment."

David Niven wrote in his memoir "Bring on the Empty Horses" that Keyes became exasperated at the non-housebroken animal and issued an ultimatum: "One of us has to go. It's the monkey or me."

According to Niven, Huston replied, "Honey, it's you." Keyes reported in her own memoir that it was the chimp that got the boot.

The Huston marriage did end in 1950, however, and Keyes sought analysis to recover from the failure. Her conclusion: "I was always looking for the same man - a strong father figure."

Keyes' marriage to Shaw in 1957 seemed to follow the same pattern. He had given up his brilliant career as a clarinetist and bandleader and had been seeking intellectual challenges.

Shaw played Henry Higgins to her Eliza Doolittle, giving her a new name, Keri, introducing her to literature and leading her on his world travels. For a time they lived in Spain. After several years she tired of his dominance and they separated. They divorced in 1985. After Shaw died in 2004 at age 94, she battled in court for a share of his estate, saying he had promised it to her. A jury backed her in 2006, but the executor of the estate vowed to appeal.

Keyes was born in Port Arthur, Texas, in 1916, according to state birth records; some references give a later year. She grew up fatherless and poor in Atlanta. A glowing blond beauty with an alluring figure, she danced in nightclubs and at 17 set out for Hollywood. Cecil B. DeMille signed her to a seven-year contract and cast her in "The Buccaneer."

Laura to return to 'General Hospital'

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Genie Francis is checking back into "General Hospital."

The 46-year-old actress again will reprise her role as Laura on the ABC daytime soap opera beginning Aug. 26.

The character's 1981 fairytale wedding to Luke (played by Anthony Geary) was watched by 30 million viewers and landed the couple on the cover of Newsweek magazine. Francis began playing Laura in 1976.

"This is a short visit," Francis told The Associated Press on Friday. "It's a mother-daughter story. Years ago when I started playing the character as a 14-year-old girl, it was a mother-daughter story, only I was the



AP
In this file image released by ABC, actress Genie Francis is shown on ABC's "The View" on Monday, Dec. 3, 2007.

daughter. So it's kinda cool this is full circle. It's nice to come back for visits. 'General Hospital' is my home."

Laura was last seen slip-

ping in and out of a catatonic state in 2007. The upcoming appearance will feature Laura in a story line with daughter Lulu. Francis, who now runs a home-furnishing shop in Belfast, Maine, said she was told that Laura wouldn't be killed off during her latest guest stint.

"I would stay on, but 'General Hospital' honestly doesn't seem to want that relationship with this character at the moment," said Francis. "They want little short doses during sweeps periods. It's not entirely up to me. I'm thrilled and delighted my audience stands behind me. If they didn't, you can be sure I wouldn't get to come back for these visits."

Francis won a supporting actress Daytime Emmy in 2007 for previously reprising the role.

Coldplay slips, Kid Rock jumps

By RANDY LEWIS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The national album chart this week tells a three-pronged tale: A hit single still packs a punch, hip-hop by anyone other than Lil Wayne continues to struggle and a sales drop isn't necessarily bad for an artist -- as long as everyone else slides more.

The inescapable Kid Rock demonstrates what a hit single can still do. As Rock's song "All Summer Long" climbs the Top 40, adult contemporary and country singles charts simultaneously, his album "Rock N Roll Jesus" has jumped from No. 12 to No. 7. Sales spiked 27 percent, to 45,000 last week, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Meanwhile, Lil Wayne's "Tha Carter III" moved back into the No. 1 slot even though sales dropped 25 percent, thanks to an even greater slip for Coldplay's latest. Sales of "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" dipped 40 percent during its third week of release, to 149,000 just shy of the 156,000 copies Wayne sold.

Wayne also trumped G-

Unit's new "T.O.S. (Terminate on Sight)," which debuted at No. 4 on sales of 102,000 copies. Despite the presence of rap heavyweights 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks and Tony Yayo, G-Unit's first week was dramatically less than the 377,000 figure for the group's 2003 debut, "Beg for Mercy," and one-tenth of Lil Wayne's 1-million-selling first week in June.

Ex-'Hollywood Madam' hit with felony drug charge

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP)—Former "Hollywood Madam" Heidi Fleiss is facing felony drug use and possession charges stemming from a February traffic stop in the rural Nevada town where she lives.

The Nye County district attorney filed a two-count complaint Thursday accusing the 42-year-old Fleiss of unlawful use of methamphetamine and possession of the painkiller hydrocodone without a prescription.

Fleiss told the Las Vegas Review-Journal she has "a bit of a substance abuse problem" and said she intends to seek private treatment.

Prosecutors say it took almost five months to process Fleiss' blood test results after her arrest on a driving under the influence charge that prosecutors decided not to pursue.

An after hours call to Fleiss' Pahump, Nev., business went unanswered Friday.



In this undated file photo originally released Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, by the Nye County Sheriff's Office, former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss is shown in a booking mug in Pahump, Nev.

Ed McMahon recovering from third neck surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon was recuperating Friday following his third neck surgery. The 85-year-old former "Tonight" show sidekick previously said he had injured himself in a fall before the possible foreclosure of his multimillion-dollar Beverly Hills house.

"Ed had his third and hopefully final neck surgery today at an L.A. hospital," McMahon's publicist Howard Bragman told The Associated Press on Friday. "He's awake, alert and resting comfortably, and the McMahon family is grateful for all the prayers and good wishes."

McMahon appeared in a neck brace on CNN's "Larry King Live" on June 5 and said he had stopped working since he broke his neck in a fall 18 months ago. Citibank filed suit June 20 against McMahon seeking to recoup nearly \$200,000 lent



In this July 24, 2007 file photo, Ed McMahon arrives at the premiere of The Simpsons Movie in Los Angeles.

to the former pitchman for the American Family Publishers' sweepstakes and "Star Search" host. McMahon was \$644,000 behind on payments on his Beverly Hills home.

Hollywood urges kids to spurn tobacco

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood to kids: Our movies glamorize smoking, but don't start yourself. Six major studios will include anti-smoking announcements on millions of DVDs of motion pictures that include scenes with tobacco use.

The public service announcements will appear on films rated G, PG and PG-13.

The participating studios: Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, Universal Pictures, Walt Disney Co. and Warner Bros.

The deal involving the studios and the state of California was brokered by the Entertainment Industry Foundation - a philanthropy. The state developed the anti-smoking announcements.

Girls avoid college pressure by having 'prom baby' instead

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Please help me to warn your readers about an alarming trend happening in the teenage community: prom babies. I first heard about it while driving my teenage daughter to a lacrosse meet with several of her girlfriends. One girl in the car, "Carrie," said she hoped this year she could have a prom baby. The girls were discussing two former classmates from last year's lacrosse team who had been unable to begin college because they had both become mothers at 17.

Both had deliberately planned to get pregnant on prom night—hence the term, "prom baby." Abby, both of the girls were studious and hard-working with bright futures ahead of them. One had been accepted to several Ivy League schools. Needless to say, their parents were devastated, and many adjustments had to be made for the new babies.

My daughter later told me that several of her other friends were considering trying to get pregnant near prom time so they, too, wouldn't have to deal with the pressures of going to college. Apparently, parents are less strict about their children's whereabouts on prom night and let their teens spend the night in a hotel or at mixed-gender sleepovers.

I thought this sad trend might be local to our area, but during a class reunion in California I learned the trend may be nationwide. One of my oldest friends, "Dana," confided during the reunion that she had become a grandmother at 43 due to her daughter having a prom baby.

As prom night approaches, please warn parents to talk with their children about the responsibilities of premarital sex and the dangers of a prom baby.

WORRIED DAD IN ALPHARETTA, GA.

DEAR WORRIED DAD: Your letter was news to me. That a girl headed for an Ivy League college—or any college, for that matter—could be so immature that she'd get pregnant so she wouldn't have to go, makes me wonder if she was college material in the first place.

In addition to advising parents to talk to their kids about premarital sex, they should also be reminded how important it is that their daughters be able to communicate honestly and openly with them.

The individuals who should be warned are the young men who will be escorting those young women on prom night. One foolish mistake could lead to a 20-year commitment to support a child before they are emotionally or financially ready for that responsibility. And all because their prom date was afraid to tell her parents she wasn't ready for college? I'm appalled.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 4-year-old who tends to act up from time to time. I have tried "time-outs" and even soft spanking and have taken his privileges away. Nothing seems to work. However, I have found that smashing one of his small toys with a hammer works well. Do you see any danger in this form of punishment?

YOUNG MOM IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR YOUNG MOM: I certainly do. Smashing a child's toy with a hammer carries the same message that an abusive husband delivers when he smashes his fist through a wall. It implies, "You're next!" If you continue punishing your child in this way, he could begin modeling his behavior after yours and destroy other people's property -- including yours -- when he's angry.

Take the toy away if that's the only way to get through to your son. Tell him that it will be given to a child who has no toys to play with. But do not destroy the toy in front of your child.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Levine delays kidney surgery until next week

By RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Conductor James Levine has delayed surgery to remove a kidney until next week. "Jim has had numerous (standard) tests this week, and several consultations



In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Boston Symphony Orchestra music director James Levine acknowledges applause as he arrives at the podium to conduct the symphony on its opening night at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass.

and discussions over the best surgical procedure," his brother, Tom Levine, said in a statement released Friday by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

After the surgery in New

York early next week, he'll remain in the hospital for about four days then recuperate at home, the statement said.

James Levine, 65, is music director of the BSO and the Metropolitan Opera.

After conducting the BSO in a concert performance of Berlioz's "Les Troyens" last weekend at Tanglewood, Levine informed the BSO he was going to have the operation, and the BSO announced Tuesday he will miss the rest of the summer season.

Levine's kidney is being removed because of a cyst that is causing pressure and discomfort, according to the BSO, which said no other treatment will be necessary.

He has been music director of the BSO since 2004 and music or artistic director of the Met since 1976. He made his Met debut in 1971.

Levine is due to resume performances on Sept. 18, when he is to conduct Verdi's Requiem at the Met to mark Luciano Pavarotti's death last September. He opens the Met season on Sept. 22 and the BSO season two days later.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Brett Favre wants release from Packers

By CHRIS JENKINS
AP SPORTS WRITERS



The Green Bay Packers want to do the right thing in response to Brett Favre's latest round of flip-flopping on his future in football.

And as far as the team is concerned, that might mean showing No. 4 the door - although working out a trade might be more palatable to the Packers than granting Favre the release he has requested.

Favre asked the Packers to release him so he can return to the NFL with another team after apparently being told his latest retirement reversal wasn't welcome news in Green Bay. The team said it would do "what's right" in response to Favre's request, which was first reported by ESPN on Friday.

"Brett earned and exercised the right to retire on his terms," the team's statement said.

"We wanted him to return and welcomed him back on more than one occasion. Brett's press conference and subsequent conversations in the following weeks illustrated his commitment to retirement. The finality of his decision to retire was accepted by the organization. At that point, the Green Bay Packers made the commitment to move forward with our football team."

The 38-year-old Favre retired March 6 after a 17-year career, openly sobbing as he contemplated a future without football. But almost immediately, he began dropping hints that he was



In this Jan. 30, 2008 file photo, Green Bay Packers' Brett Favre smiles at the FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Year news conference in Phoenix. AP

having second thoughts.

The most recent and intense round came Friday, when ESPN's Chris Mortensen reported that sources close to Favre and the team told him agent James "Bus" Cook asked the Packers for Favre's release in a letter because the Packers were not

receptive to the idea of Favre wanting to play again.

The Packers' front office has spent the past several offseasons dealing with weeks and months worth of speculation about the three-time MVP's future plans. But this time, they're apparently not biting.

The Packers' statement said Favre, who was placed on the reserve/retired list, has the right to petition NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to be reinstated—a request the league would grant automatically. After that, Favre would return to the team's active roster.

But the statement did not specify what the Packers would do after that, beyond doing "what's right and in the best interest of the team."

If the team has committed to moving forward without Favre, their options once he was reinstated would include trading him to another team or releasing him so he would be free to sign with the team of his choice.

The Packers have made it clear they're committed to going with quarterback Aaron Rodgers, a first-round pick in 2005 who has been sitting behind Favre for his first three seasons in the NFL.

Releasing Favre presents the possibility that he will sign with NFC North rivals Minnesota or Chicago, where he would be an upgrade over the incumbent QBs.

If the Packers traded him, there would be teams outside the division such as Baltimore or Tampa Bay, and perhaps Washington, that would be interested. There also has been speculation he could go to Miami for disgruntled defensive end Jason Taylor, the 2006 defensive player of the year.

Either way, it would be an ugly end to what has been one of the most celebrated partnerships in recent NFL history.

"As with all Packers greats, Brett's legacy will always be celebrated by our fans and the organization, regardless of any change in his personal intentions," the statement said. "Brett and Deanna will always be a part of the Packers family."

Even if that family is looking awfully dysfunctional these days.

Beltran tests positive as doping hits Tour again



AURILLAC, France (AP) — Doping is back at the Tour de France. It did not stay away very long.

The peaceful lull that had observers feeling optimistic did not last longer than a week, and the showcase race that was plunged into the depths of despair last year, sank right back down again following news Friday of Manuel Beltran's positive test for the performance-enhancer EPO.

He was immediately kicked out of the Tour and suspended by his team, Liquigas.

"When are these idiots going to learn that it's over?" said Pat McQuaid, the leader of the International Cycling Union. "They continue to think that they can beat the system. They're wrong. The system is catching up all the time."

The 37-year-old Spanish rider, who rode alongside Lance Armstrong for three years as one of U.S. Postal's cyclists, was taken away by French police within two hours of the positive test. He can ask for a "B" sample, although these rarely clear riders. If

he does ask for it and he fails that test, too, he will be fired by the team, its directors said.

Beltran was targeted by the French anti-doping agency (AFLD) before the race had even started, after blood tests carried out on July 3-4 showed "abnormal parameters," the AFLD's chief Pierre Bordry told The Associated Press.

"Yes, they were of a nature to target him, that was why he was tested on Saturday" July 5, Bordry said. "The parameters were abnormal."

"There are not just traces of EPO, there is EPO," Bordry said. "Whether there is a lot or a little, EPO is forbidden."

Beltran might not be alone, either, with Bordry adding that other riders—so far unidentified—are also under the spotlight for having abnormal blood parameters.

Liquigas spokesman Paolo Barbieri said French police had taken Beltran from the team hotel to the town of Aurillac where Friday's seventh stage finished. He confirmed police were searching rooms at the team's hotel.

Before the positive test, an exciting seventh stage had seen

Luis-Leon Sanchez of Spain win with a solo ride and Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg retain the yellow jersey.

Kirchen still leads Australia's Cadel Evans by six seconds, with Monday's first big mountain stage approaching fast on Bastille Day, the celebration of the French revolution that saw the aristocracy overthrown and heads roll.

Heads certainly turned Friday with the news of the Tour's first doping test, which now means four ex-Armstrong teammates have tested positive in the past four years.

In addition to Beltran, Floyd Landis, Roberto Heras of Spain and Tyler Hamilton—all former Postal riders during Armstrong's seven Tour wins from 1999-2005—failed doping tests after quitting the Texan's team.

Though Beltran will not continue in the Tour, his team will.

Last year, Cofidis withdrew after Cristian Moreni of Italy tested positive for testosterone, and pre-race favorite Alexandre Vinokourov's Kazakh-owned Astana team was kicked out by race organizer ASO after he tested positive for blood doping.

Depending on what Beltran tells the police, Liquigas may eventually be forced out, too.

An official of the police division responsible for public health confirmed Beltran was in custody. He said police are questioning him about where he took the drug and where he got it. They can keep him for 24 hours, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Every rider was blood-tested before the start of the race on July 3 and 4 by Bordry's AFLD, which is responsible for testing along with the French cycling federation. The UCI is not involved in testing this year because of a long-standing rift with ASO.

The AFLD announced Friday that some 20 riders had abnormal blood test results before the race, but none exceeded the limits for hematocrit. High levels of hematocrit are indicators of EPO use but do not confirm it.

UCI's McQuaid acknowledged ridding cycling of "the old guard" is a slow and painful process because "you don't change a culture overnight"—

the proof being the last three Tours all have been marred by doping, each successive year peeling off the tender scars before they've healed.

Last year, race leader Michael Rasmussen was kicked out just days before the end for lying about his whereabouts to avoid pre-Tour doping tests, and Spaniard Iban Mayo also tested positive for EPO. He later was cleared by his national federation, but the case is still being contested by the UCI.

In the 2006 Tour, Landis tested positive for synthetic testosterone after a spectacular comeback ride that set the stage for his Tour victory. He later was stripped of his title following a long court battle.

Despite the promises and pledges this time around from directors that their teams were clean, and that anti-doping programs were working overtime, the 2008 Tour has not even reached the hard mountains and the first positive test has arrived.

"Once more, the sport suffers," McQuaid told the AP. "Idiots like that are prepared to take the risk, and it's a huge risk."

Golden State signs veteran swingman Corey Maggette



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors signed Corey Maggette on Thursday, grabbing the Los Angeles Clippers' leading scorer with a lucrative free-agent deal.

A person with knowledge of the deal previously told The Associated Press that Maggette is getting a five-year deal worth around \$50 million to leave the Clippers, who signed Golden State's Baron Davis on Thursday in an effective swap of high-scoring stars.

The Warriors made another aggressive move Thursday, signing Los Angeles Lakers forward Ronny Turiaf to an offer sheet. The Lakers have seven days to decide whether to match Golden State's four-year, \$17 million contract offer, which would boost Los Angeles' payroll past the luxury tax.

Turiaf averaged 6.6 points and 3.9 rebounds in 78 games with the Western Conference champions last year, starting 21 games. The three-year veteran also blocks shots and plays strong low-post defense, two of Golden State's biggest problem areas.

Maggette, a 6-foot-6 swingman, is expected to be a good fit for Warriors' coach Don Nelson's frenetic, fast-paced style of play. The 28-year-old former Duke star appeared in 70 games last season with the Clippers, averaging 22.1 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists—all just off his career highs.

Davis opted out of a \$17 million deal for next season to accept a smaller salary to play in his hometown with Elton Brand and perhaps Maggette, who both opted out of their own contracts with the Clippers. Brand then signed with the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday, spurning a larger offer from Golden State—but the Warriors moved swiftly to sign Maggette, who received interest from five other teams, including Boston and San Antonio.

Maggette is expected to fill voids left by the departure of swingman Mickael Pietrus to Orlando, and the loss of forward Matt Barnes, whom Nelson said won't be back.

"He's been one of the most productive players in our league for the last several years, and provides us with additional versatility and veteran leadership," said Chris Mullin, the Warriors' top basketball executive.

Veterans Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington are the only regulars currently under contract, but Mullin has said the team will sign high-scoring guard Monta Ellis and center Andris Biedrins—both restricted free agents—at any price, hopefully to long-term deals.

Halladay throws 2-hitter and Blue Jays beat Yankees



T O - R O N T O
(A P) — Roy Halladay

threw a two-hitter and Matt Stairs and Rod Barajas homered to lead Toronto to a 5-0 victory over New York on Friday.

Halladay (11-6) won his third straight start and threw his major league-leading seventh complete game. He struck out eight and walked one. The right-hander, who has 11 career shutouts, is 8-1 over his past 12 starts.

The Blue Jays extended their home winning streak to a season-high six games.

Playing in their third city in as many nights, the Yankees put just two runners in scoring position against Halladay. Lead-off hitter Brett Gardner was hit by a pitch and stole second in the first, and Derek Jeter hit a ground-rule double in the ninth.

The only other hit was Alex Rodriguez's one-out single in the fourth.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 3

At Boston, Brian Roberts was a home run short of the cycle as Baltimore beat Boston's Clay Buchholz in his first start against them since his no-hitter last season.

The Orioles snapped a five-game losing streak by handing Boston a rare home loss.

Brian Burres (7-5) allowed three runs and six hits, leaving with a 4-3 lead with one out in the seventh.

Buchholz (2-4) retired just one of the first five batters he faced and gave up four runs, five hits and five walks in five innings.

George Sherrill came on with two outs and two on in the ninth. He walked Dustin Pedroia before striking out Kevin Youkilis to earn his 28th save.

Roberts led off the game with a double, stole third and scored on a sacrifice fly. In the fifth, he had an RBI triple and scored on Aubrey Huff's sacrifice fly to make it 4-3.

Indians 5, Rays 0

At Cleveland, Cliff Lee pitched six stellar innings and Cleveland extended Tampa Bay's season-high losing streak to five games.

Jhonny Peralta hit a two-run homer and an RBI double off James Shields (7-6) as the Indians beat the Rays in Cleveland for the 11th consecutive time since Sept. 29, 2005.

The Indians entered the four-game series on a 10-game losing streak—their longest in 29 years—but have consecutive wins for the first time since June 26-27.

Tampa Bay had won seven straight to open a five-game lead in the AL East on July 6.

Twins 3, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Nick Punto drove in two runs and Minnesota's bullpen shut down Detroit.

Punto had RBIs in the fourth and sixth innings and Delmon Young added a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Minnesota starter Glen Perkins (6-2) left after giving up Detroit's second run in the seventh. Relievers Jesse Crain, Matt Guerrier and Joe Nathan retired the next seven batters—three on strikeouts—to give him his second straight win.

Nathan earned his 26th save. Alexi Casilla had three hits for the Twins.

Royals 3, Mariners 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar allowed one run and five hits over seven innings and David DeJesus doubled in two runs as Kansas City downed Seattle.

Hochevar limited the Mariners to four singles over the first six innings, then Adrian Beltre opened the seventh with a double. Beltre went to third on a groundout and scored on Miguel Cairo's grounder.

Hochevar (6-7) struck out four and walked none.

Joakim Soria pitched a perfect ninth for his 25th save.

Rangers 7, White Sox 2

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton drove in two runs and Luis Mendoza struck out eight over six innings to lead Texas over Chicago.

Hamilton went 3-for-5 and including his major league lead with 93 RBIs. He has driven in 11 over his last seven games.

Mendoza (2-3) allowed three hits and one walk to win for the first time in six starts.

Gavin Floyd (10-5) lasted 2 2-3 innings in his shortest outing of the season for the White Sox. Floyd, who was 6-1 in his previous eight starts, walked a career-high seven and allowed six runs.

Jim Thome hit his 524th homer in the seventh for the White Sox, who had won 11 of 14.

Texas' Ian Kinsler extended his hitting streak to 23 games, tying teammate Michael Young for the longest in baseball this season. David Murphy and Chris Davis homered for Texas.

Athletics 9, Angels 2

At Oakland, California, Sean Gallagher allowed two hits over seven innings in his Oakland debut and fellow newcomer Mike Murton drove in two runs against the Angels.

Both players were acquired by Oakland earlier in the week as part of a six-player trade that sent pitchers Rich Harden and Chad Gaudin to the Chicago Cubs.

Jack Hannahan homered and drove in three runs for the A's, who sent 11 batters to the plate in the third and seven in the fourth to break the game open after Los Angeles had taken a 2-0 lead.

Gallagher, who went 3-4 in

10 starts with the Cubs, gave up two runs in the third. He didn't allow a runner past first over his final four innings and retired 14 of the final 16 batters he faced.

Gallagher had seven strikeouts, one shy of his career high, and walked three.

Mets 2, Rockies 1

At New York, Damion Easley's eighth-inning homer carried the New York Yankees to its seventh straight win, over the Colorado Rockies.

Easley hit his third homer of the season on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Taylor Buchholz (3-3) with two outs. Billy Wagner worked a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

The Mets have won seven straight for the first time since Aug. 17-24, 2006. They held an opponent to three hits for the fourth straight game.

Pedro Feliciano (2-2) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth for the victory.

The Rockies loaded the bases in the sixth, seventh and eighth but couldn't get any runs out of it.

Easley was 2-for-3 including his first homer since June 18.

Mets starter Oliver Perez allowed one run and two hits in six-plus innings, walking six and striking out seven.

Cubs 3, Giants 1

At Chicago, Aramis Ramirez broke a scoreless tie with a three-run homer in the eighth inning as Chicago downed San Francisco.

Shut down by starter Matt Cain for seven innings, the Cubs struck quickly against his replacement and held off a ninth-inning rally to send the Giants to their fifth straight loss.

Ryan Theriot led off the Cubs' eighth with a single off Tyler Walker and was sacrificed to second. Walker (3-5) intentionally walked Derrek Lee before Ramirez hit his 17th homer.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Kyle Lohse limited Pittsburgh to six hits over seven innings and Rick Ankiel and Ryan Ludwick homered for St. Louis.

Lohse (11-2) won his eighth in a row by limiting the Pirates to one extra-base hit. He hasn't lost in 12 starts since May 9, giving up two runs or fewer in all but two of his last 10 starts.

Ankiel's two-run drive followed Yadier Molina's two-run double and finished off a decisive four-run third inning, with all the scoring occurring after Pirates starter Zach Duke (4-6) retired the first two batters. All six runs scored with two outs.

Ankiel went 3-for-3 with a walk and drove in three runs. Troy Glaus had three of St. Louis' 13 hits.

Nationals 10, Astros 0

At Washington, Ronnie Bel-

liard homered twice and drove in five runs and Tim Lincecum finally got a victory after nine consecutive no-decisions for Washington.

Redding (7-3) allowed seven singles, walked none and struck out six in six innings. The Astros had hits in the first five innings, but Redding consistently wiggled out of trouble to record his first victory since May 19.

Austin Kearns homered and drove in three runs for the Nationals, who had lost seven of eight.

Steven Shell worked three innings for his first career save as Washington earned its seventh shutout of the season, and second in three days.

The Astros have been blanked three times this season and have lost eight of 10 overall.

Reds 6, Brewers 5

At Milwaukee, Jay Bruce scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for Cincinnati on the third wild pitch by Milwaukee.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a ground-rule double off Brian Shouse (3-1) to start the inning, and he advanced when Bruce reached on a throwing error by third baseman Bill Hall. Solomon Torres relieved and walked David Ross. Pinch-hitter Adam Dunn hit into a fielder's choice, and Bruce scored on a wild pitch.

Mike Lincoln (1-2) picked up the victory with an inning of scoreless relief. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 5, 12 innings

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth's game-ending RBI single in the 12th inning gave Philadelphia the win over Arizona in a matchup of National League division leaders.

Werth and Shane Victorino both had three hits for the Phillies, who have won three straight. Victorino tied it at 5 with a two-run triple off Tony Pena in the ninth.

So Taguchi led off the 12th with a single for Philadelphia. He was sacrificed to second and Connor Robertson (0-1) intentionally walked Jimmy Rollins to get to Werth, who singled to center.

Rudy Seanez (4-3) pitched a scoreless 12th to earn the win.

Ryan Howard hit his major league-leading 28th homer for the Phillies, extending his hitting streak to a season-high 14 games.

Padres 4, Braves 0

At San Diego, Scott Hairston had a double and a triple to back Jake Peavy as San Diego blanked Atlanta.

Hairston is 17-for-34 (.500) with six doubles, five homers, nine RBIs and nine runs scored in his last 11 games

since June 25.

Peavy (7-5), the reigning NL Cy Young pitching award winner, held Atlanta to four hits and struck out seven in seven innings. Peavy lowered his home ERA to 1.45, the lowest in the NL and second-lowest in the majors.

Trevor Hoffman came on with runners on first and second and two outs in the ninth and struck out Brent Lillibridge to earn his 17th save.

Marlins 3, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Chris Volstad came within one out of a shutout in his first major league start and

Florida's Jeremy Hermida and Jorge Cantu hit back-to-back homers in the first inning.

Volstad (2-0) became the sixth pitcher since 1971 to get a victory as a starter and as a reliever in his first two big league appearances, joining teammate Doug Waechter, who did it with Tampa Bay in 2003.

The 21-year-old Volstad threw two innings of scoreless relief at Colorado last Sunday, the day the Marlins promoted him from minor league Carolina.

The Marlins scored all of their runs against Eric Stults (2-2) after just 12 pitches by the left-hander.



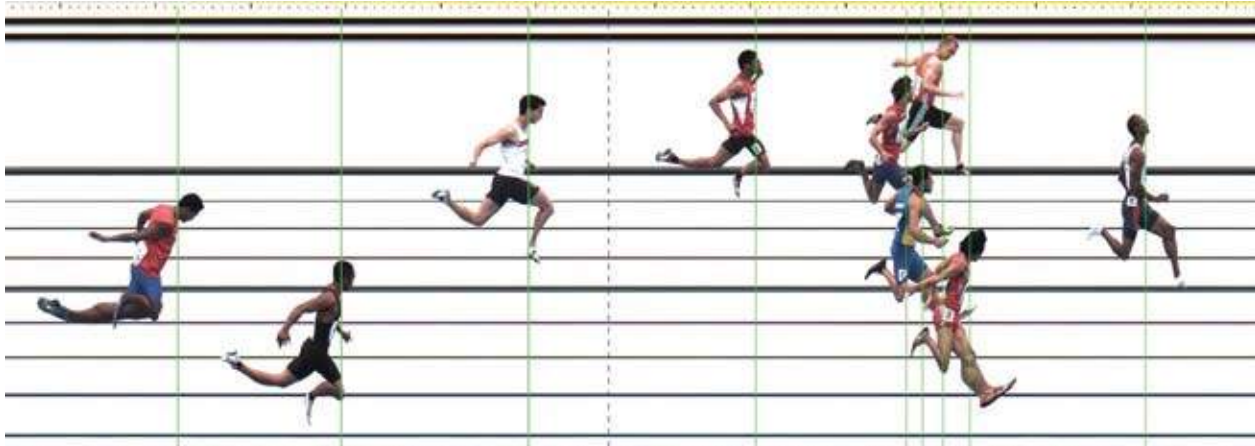
TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS																																					
AMERICAN STANDINGS East Division <table><tr><th></th><th>W</th><th>L</th><th>Pct</th><th>GB</th></tr><tr><td>Tampa Bay</td><td>55</td><td>37</td><td>.598</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Boston</td><td>55</td><td>40</td><td>.579</td><td>1 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>New York</td><td>49</td><td>44</td><td>.527</td><td>6 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Toronto</td><td>46</td><td>47</td><td>.495</td><td>9 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Baltimore</td><td>45</td><td>46</td><td>.495</td><td>9 1/2</td></tr></table>						W	L	Pct	GB	Tampa Bay	55	37	.598	—	Boston	55	40	.579	1 1/2	New York	49	44	.527	6 1/2	Toronto	46	47	.495	9 1/2	Baltimore	45	46	.495	9 1/2	Kenny Perry	65-66	131
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Central Division <table><tr><td>Chicago</td><td>53</td><td>39</td><td>.576</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Minnesota</td><td>52</td><td>41</td><td>.559</td><td>1 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Detroit</td><td>46</td><td>46</td><td>.500</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Kansas City</td><td>42</td><td>52</td><td>.447</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Cleveland</td><td>39</td><td>53</td><td>.424</td><td>14</td></tr></table>					Chicago	53	39	.576	—	Minnesota	52	41	.559	1 1/2	Detroit	46	46	.500	7	Kansas City	42	52	.447	12	Cleveland	39	53	.424	14	Dean Wilson	68-67	135					
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West Division <table><tr><td>Los Angeles</td><td>55</td><td>38</td><td>.591</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Oakland</td><td>51</td><td>42</td><td>.548</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Texas</td><td>49</td><td>45</td><td>.521</td><td>6 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Seattle</td><td>36</td><td>57</td><td>.387</td><td>19</td></tr></table>					Los Angeles	55	38	.591	—	Oakland	51	42	.548	4	Texas	49	45	.521	6 1/2	Seattle	36	57	.387	19	Nicholas Thompson	67-68	135										
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NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division <table><tr><td>Philadelphia</td><td>51</td><td>43</td><td>.543</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Florida</td><td>49</td><td>44</td><td>.527</td><td>1 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>New York</td><td>49</td><td>44</td><td>.527</td><td>1 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Atlanta</td><td>43</td><td>50</td><td>.462</td><td>7 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Washington</td><td>36</td><td>58</td><td>.383</td><td>15</td></tr></table>					Philadelphia	51	43	.543	—	Florida	49	44	.527	1 1/2	New York	49	44	.527	1 1/2	Atlanta	43	50	.462	7 1/2	Washington	36	58	.383	15	Jay Williamson	69-68	137					
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YESTERDAY'S GAMES Chicago Cubs 3, San Francisco 1 St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 0 Philadelphia 6, Arizona 5, 12 innings N.Y. Mets 2, Colorado 1 Washington 10, Houston 0 Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 5 San Diego 4, Atlanta 0 Florida 3, L.A. Dodgers 1 st Baltimore 7, Boston 3 Minnesota 3, Detroit 2 Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 0 Toronto 5, N.Y. Yankees 0 Texas 7, Chicago White Sox 2 Kansas City 3, Seattle 1 Oakland 9, L.A. Angels 2					Steve Marino	69-70	139																														
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					Jin Park	70-69	139																														
					Chad Collins	69-70	139																														
					Lee Janzen	72-67	139																														
					Scott McCarron	71-68	139																														
					Glen Day	70-69	139																														
					Jim McGovern	70-69	139																														
					Bart Bryant	69-70	139																														
					Mark Wilson	71-68	139																														
					Kent Jones	67-72	139																														
SECOND ROUND Will MacKenzie 65-64 129 Charlie Wi 64-67 131					Shane Bertsch	69-70	139																														
					Cameron Beckman	66-73	139																														
					Ron Whittaker	70-69	139																														
					Craig Kanada	74-65	139																														

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Jesus Iguel is newest track star



By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jesus Iguel topped this week's sports headlines after representing the CNMI in the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

The 19-year-old Kagman High School student notched a personal best when he ran the 100m in 11.71 last Wednesday. His time broke the 11.82 he registered during the recent 2008 Oceania Grand Prix held here on Saipan.

Iguel previously ran the 100m in 11.5 during the McDonald's All-Schools Meet last month, but that was using a hand timer.

In other sports news this past week, the gallant CNMI team that saw action in the 2008 East Asian Football Federation Under-14 Youth Football Festival in Guam succumbed to its fourth straight loss when they bowed to Chinese-Taipei, 0-7, Tuesday at the LeoPalace Resort.

The 14-under team, making only its second off-island appearance, previously lost to Macau, China, and North Korea.

The championship of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League's open division, meanwhile, got going last Thursday with Freddie Pelisamen and powerhouse Ol'Aces routing pennant champions Advance X-Terminators, 129-93, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, for its part, concluded its latest American Red Cross Water Safety Course last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan with 63 students receiving their certificate of completions.

Club president Stan Good said of the 63 who graduated, 22 were from Level 1, 16 from Level 2, 19 from Level 3, and four in Level 6. Level 1 is for beginners, while Level 6 is for advance swimmers.

Simon Manacop, Raymond Zapanta, and Francisco "Kitz" Barja also competed in the 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships held this past week in Hong Kong.

Tanapag Falcons' Mike Pangelinan also hit the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League's third outside-the-park homerun after rounding the bases against Kabur Monday.

Last but not the least, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs center/forward Taj Van Buren is currently leading the scoring race in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League with 122 total points in four games, good for an average of 30.5 per outing.

Jesus Iguel of the CNMI, second from left, is seen here in the photo finish image posted in the International Association of Athletics Federations website during Day 1 of the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.



From left, the CNMI's Ross Zapanta and his son Raymond during the managers meeting of the 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships held this past week in Hong Kong.



Northern Marianas College players high-five each other after beating Bank of Guam in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The 63 participants of the American Red Cross Water Safety Course pose with their coaches and assistant coaches from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan during their graduation ceremony Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's youth team to the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam pose for a photo.



Tanapag Falcons' Mike Pangelinan is congratulated by teammates as he makes his way to home plate after hitting an outside-the-park homerun against Kabur Monday in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs center/forward Taj Van Buren, seen here in a file photo, has so far burned the nets for 122 total points in four games to average 30.5 an outing.



Freddie Pelisamen, seen here in a file photo, scored a season-high 51 points in Ol'Aces' 129-93 win over Advance X-Terminators in Game 1 of the best-of-three championship of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SML

From Page 28

Returning players are not required to provide eligibility documents since they are on record files. However, all players, to include returnees must have some type of insurance coverage in order to play. Players without insurance coverage are asked to contact the SML to make arrangements.

The league's entry fee, in the amount of \$800, should be made payable to Saipan Major League and is due on Aug. 22, 2008. A 25-man team roster is due prior

to opening of the league. Teams are encouraged to start securing sponsors that would provide for the teams' necessities such as the entry fee and uniforms.

Finally, an organizational meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 4, at 12 noon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room to detail out plans for the upcoming league.

Waiver forms will be provided to all teams on this day. Managers and coaches and other interested teams are asked to bring all pertinent documents to this meeting.

For more information, contact league coordinator Tony Rogolifo at 288-3515. (SML)



Jesus Iguel is newest track star

Jesus Iguel topped this week's sports headlines after representing the CNMI in the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brett Favre wants release from Packers

The Green Bay Packers want to do the right thing in response to Brett Favre's latest round of flip-flopping on his future in football.

25



28 SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kiwis proud of Saipan showing

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The manager and coach of the triumphant New Zealand under-18 team to the 2008 Oceania Championships held here on Saipan were proud of their kids' showing and were impressed on how the competition was organized.

Coach Ed Fern said his athletes performed well in the competition and even said that some of them may have the potential to represent New Zealand in the Olympics in the future.

"We are very proud of our team. For a group of U18s to come out of their winter and deal with those temperatures is one of the accomplishments we are happy with. We think there is a lot of potential in the athletes we had on Saipan. In a few years there could be some Olympic athletes coming out of that group," he said.

Of his athletes, the one that stood out the most, according to him was Alex Jordan in the 100m and 200m.

"He does most of his competing on a grass track in Nelson. He had two personal bests and won two gold medals and anchored the 4x100 relay, so he more than made up for the warm temperatures, and he made the most of the opportunity to run on a great surface."

Fern said, overall he was very im-

pressed with the entire Championships. He said that the accommodations at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel was very good, the food was excellent, and the opening and closing nights were great.

"They will be stored in my track and field memory banks for the rest of my life."

Manager Joan Merrilees seconded Fern's assessment about the local organizing committee when she said: "The Championships were very well organized, the accommodations and food were awesome, and the local people were very warm and welcoming and Saipan is a place that everyone in our team would like to visit again. We loved the island!"

She said the keys to the team winning the overall medal tally was that their athletes were focused on their competition and they prepared well prior to arriving on Saipan.

"They did not appear to let the competition get to them at all and adjusted their warm-up to suit the hotter conditions," she said. "The whole team competed superbly and we had six PBs (personal bests), which is just amazing when you consider that the last time any of these athletes had any track competition was in March."

Merrilees said Saipan's tropical climate was much hotter and much more



MARK RABAGO

New Zealand's under-18 team topped the medal standings of the 2008 Oceania Championships with 17 gold, 10 silver, and six bronze medals. Team members as well as coach Ed Fern and manager Joan Merrilees are shown here during Day 1 of the competition at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, during the Cross Country event.

humid than the athletes were used to.

Add to that, the Kiwi contingent had just come from the middle of their winter season, which meant that Merrilees and Fern had to keep reminding their athletes to take on board a lot of water and just to keep drinking.

"The fact that we had the opportunity

to compete in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix gave the athletes an excellent opportunity to compete and see how they coped with both the heat and the level of competition. It got rid of a lot of nerves," she said.

New Zealand's under-18 team topped the medal standings of the 2008

Oceania Championships, hauling 17 gold, 10 silver, and six bronze medals back to their home country.

The 2008 Oceania Championships was held at the Oleai Track and Field from July 26 to 28. The Cross Country event was held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort on July 25.

Local bowlers compete in HK

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Three of the CNMI's top bowlers competed in the 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships held this past week at the Hong Kong Bowling City in the former Crown Colony's Kowloon Bay.

While Simon Manacop, Raymond Zapanta, and Francisco "Kitz" Barja failed to advance to the Masters Finals, the three managed respectable scores in the competition that featured events in singles, doubles, trios, and teams.

All four events are combined for the all-important All-Events standings and the CNMI's best finished 83rd (Manacop), 89th (Zapanta), and 104th (Barja) overall.

Manacop came away with a score of 1,084 in the singles, 1,144 in the doubles, 1,179 in the trios, and 1,148 in the team to finish with 4,555 pinfalls, good for an average of 189.79. Manacop is an officer at the Department of Public Safety.

Zapanta, for his part, rolled a 1,058 in the singles, 1,195 in the doubles before concluding his appearance with a 1,146 in

the trios and a 1,115 in the team for a grand total of 4,514, or 188.08 average. Zapanta is a student at the Northern Marianas College.

Barja, meanwhile, managed 946 in the singles, 972 in the doubles, 1,087 in the trios, and 1,111 in the team during his off-island competition debut. The Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager went on to total 4,116

pinfalls, which equates to a 171.5 average per outing.

Chester King and Raoul Miranda of the Philippines actually topped the Men's All-Events category with totals of 5,534 (230.58 average) and 5,444 (226.83), respectively. United Arab Emirates' Hussain All-Suwaidi finished third with his 5,366 and 223.58 average.

In the Masters competition, Adrian Ang of Malaysia and Choi Jin-A of Korea won the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

Ang totaled 458 in the two-game finale against countryman Zulmaran Zulfiki, while Choi topped teammate Gye Min-Young, 472-445, in the women's championship.

Other division champions saw Korea and Malaysia retain the men's and women's team of 5 titles, the Philippines and Korea won the trios, Hong Kong and Malaysia win the men's and women's doubles, and Korea's Choi Ki-Bong and Hwang Sun-Ok win the men's and women's singles, respectively.

A total of 168 bowlers—107 men and 61 women—from 19 countries took part in the 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships, which started last July 5 and concluded last July 11.



WWW.ABF-ONLINE.ORG

Raymond Zapanta, Francisco "Kitz" Barja, and Simon Manacop represented the CNMI in the 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships held this past week in Hong Kong.

Bao Young Man wins Blue Tee tourney

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Bao Young Man ruled the 4th Annual Blue Tee Tournament that took place last Saturday and Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Over 70 golfers took part in the yearly tournament but Bao, a golf pro, won the competition with a six-over par 150 in the two-day tournament.

Bao started out with a 76 in the Peoria format first day before finishing the tournament with a 74 in the gross score format second day.

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol came in second with a nine-over 153 after a 76 in a Day 1 and a 77 in Day 2.

Park Joung Hoon complete the Top

3 with his 12-over 156 built around a tourney leading 73 on Saturday and a disastrous 83 on Sunday.

Joji Taguchi (157), Adam Hardwicke (157), Tim Taguchi (158), Chul Juh Byun (163), defending champion Jeff Taylor (164), Manny Alvarez (164), Kim Bong Kun (164), Ralph Yumul (165), Ben Duenas (165), Peter Tenorio (165), Ned Norita (168), Tars Olopai (168), Juko Isikawa (169), and Tsukasa Kuribayashi (173) also took part in the 4th Annual Blue Tee Tournament.

Seventy-seven golfers took part in the tournament but the field was cut to 17 after the first round as the organizing committee set a cut line of 82.

Other previous winners of the Blue Tee Tournament are Seung Woo Kang in 2005 and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho in 2006.

SML Fall League to start soon



The Saipan Major League Baseball Association's upcoming SML Fall League annual youth baseball program is tentatively scheduled to open in late August or early September of this year.

A developmental program, this league will again play host to players ages 25 and under. This year marks the ninth season the program has been in existence

since it was first inaugurated in 1999.

As in previous years, the SML requires players to submit proof of eligibility documents such as birth certificates, passports, and driver's license. In addition, copies of insurance policy or card must accompany these documents. This is important to ensure players are fully covered by their individual health and life insurance in case of injury during league play.

See SML on Page 27